

RANI ABBAKKA

Abbakka, queen of Ullal, a small principality (in what is now South Karnataka), had made a pledge to her dying mother that she would avenge her defeat and humiliation at the hands of the Portuguese. Defying her over-cautious husband, the king of Bangadi, and the under-confident nobles in her court, Rani Abbakka rallied her army to challenge the might of the Portuguese and wrest freedom for Ullal and later even for Mangalore.

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BRAVEHEARTS



RANI ABBAKKA

THE QUEEN WHO KNEW NO FEAR

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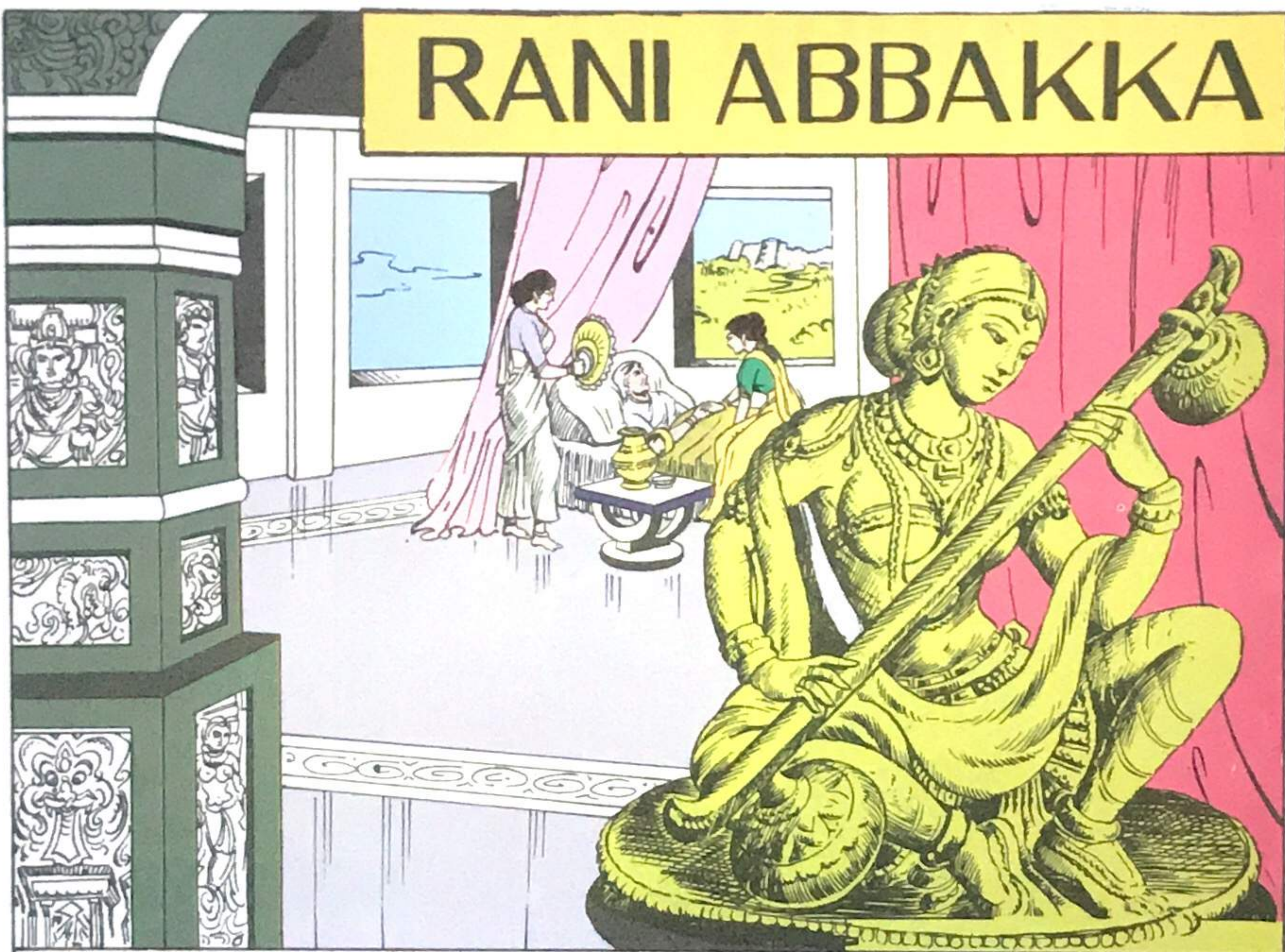


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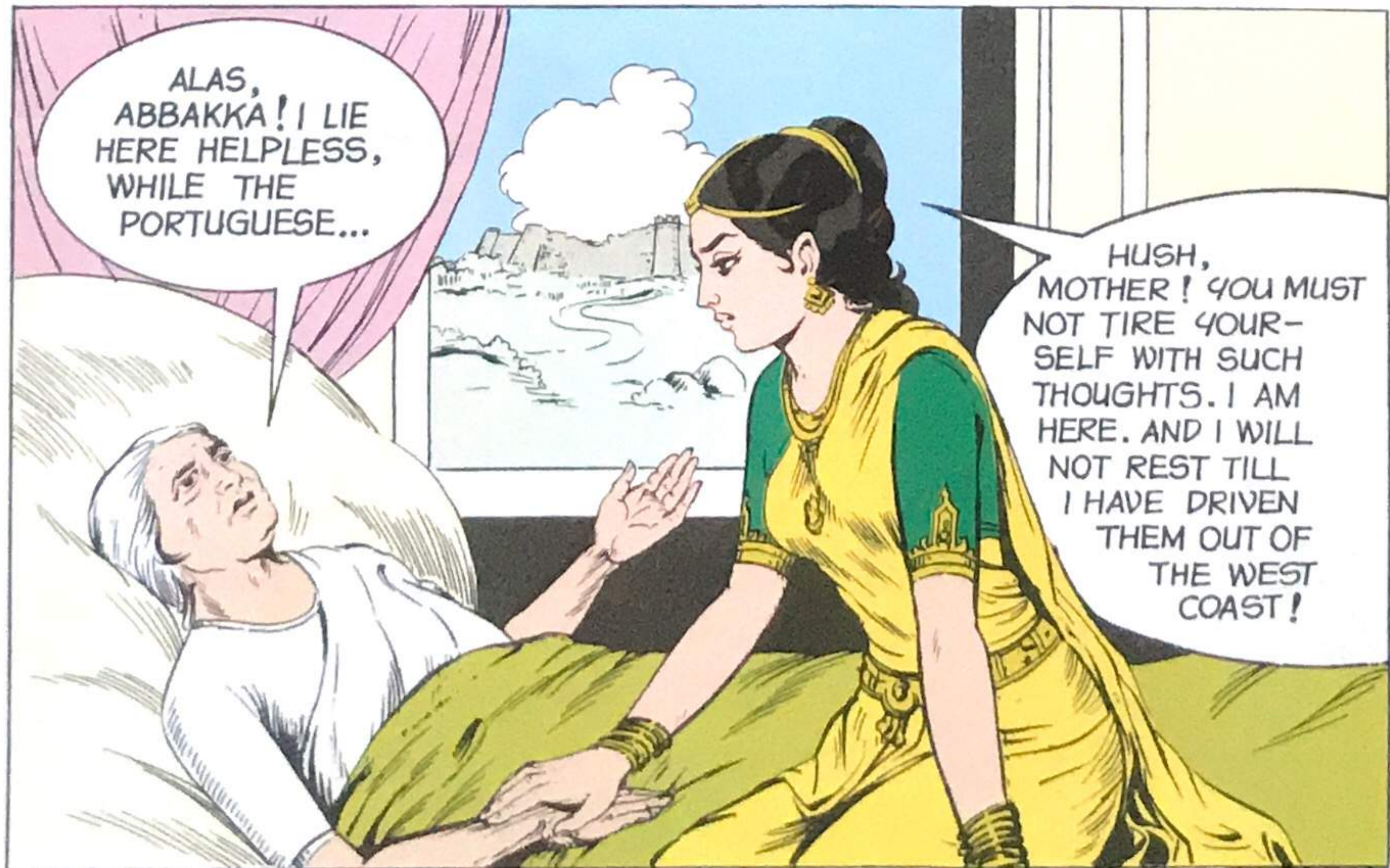


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RANI ABBAKKA



HIRIYAMMA* ABBAKKA, THE QUEEN OF ULLAL[⊕] WAS ON HER DEATH-BED. HER DAUGHTER AND SUCCESSOR, ABBAKKA DEVI, WAS BY HER SIDE.

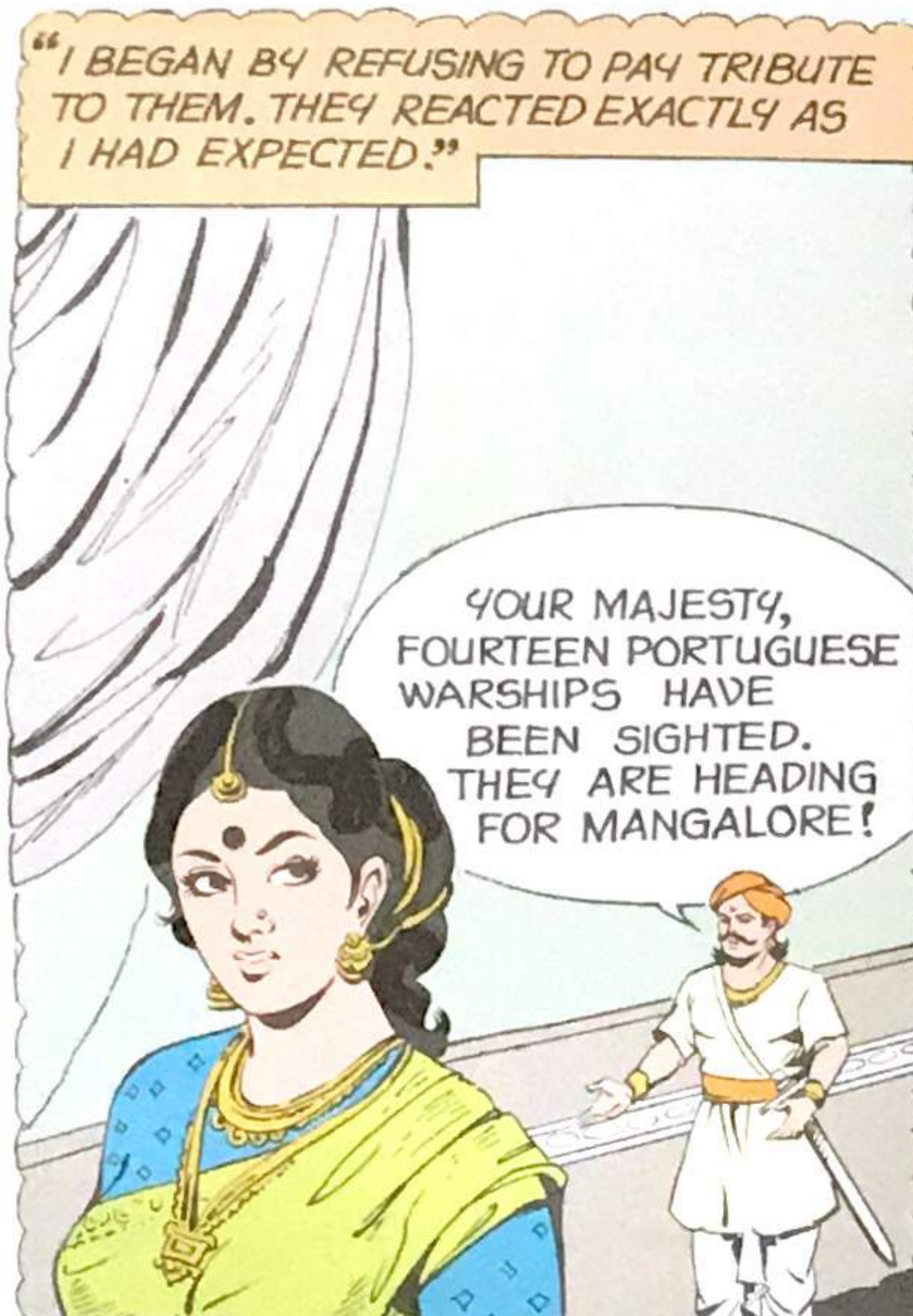


ALAS, ABBAKKA! I LIE HERE HELPLESS, WHILE THE PORTUGUESE...

HUSH, MOTHER! YOU MUST NOT TIRE YOURSELF WITH SUCH THOUGHTS. I AM HERE. AND I WILL NOT REST TILL I HAVE DRIVEN THEM OUT OF THE WEST COAST!



WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I TOO HAD TAKEN SUCH A PLEDGE. MAY YOU SUCCEED WHERE I FAILED, MY CHILD.



"I BEGAN BY REFUSING TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEM. THEY REACTED EXACTLY AS I HAD EXPECTED."

YOUR MAJESTY, FOURTEEN PORTUGUESE WARSHIPS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED. THEY ARE HEADING FOR MANGALORE!



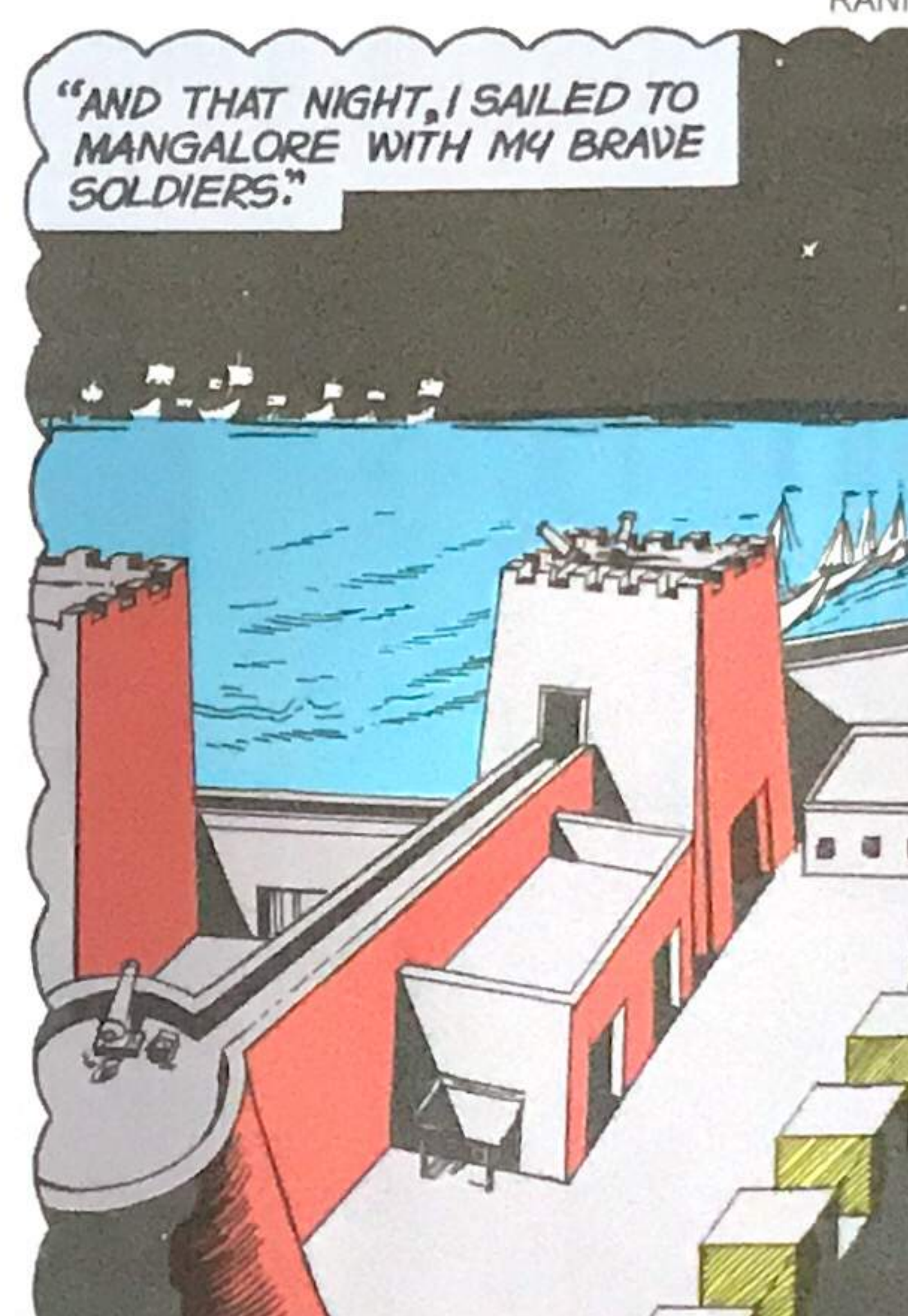
"MY MINISTERS WERE ALARMED!"

I THINK THEY WILL MAKE MANGALORE THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND THEN ATTACK US, YOUR MAJESTY.

WILL OUR FORCES BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THEIR ATTACK?



WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR THEM TO ATTACK. WE'LL CARRY THE WAR INTO THE ENEMY'S CAMP. WE'LL TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE — TONIGHT!

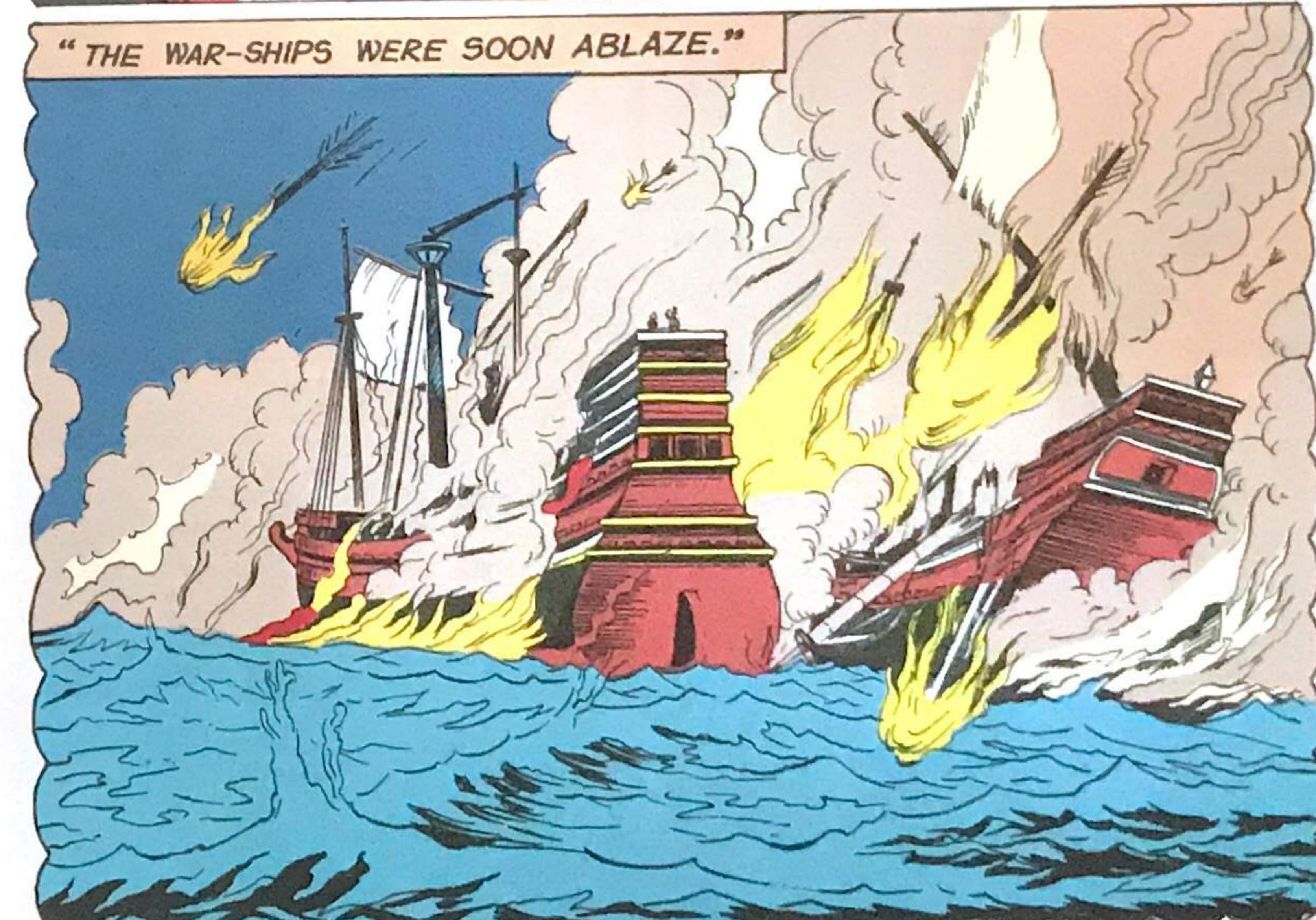


"AND THAT NIGHT, I SAILED TO MANGALORE WITH MY BRAVE SOLDIERS."

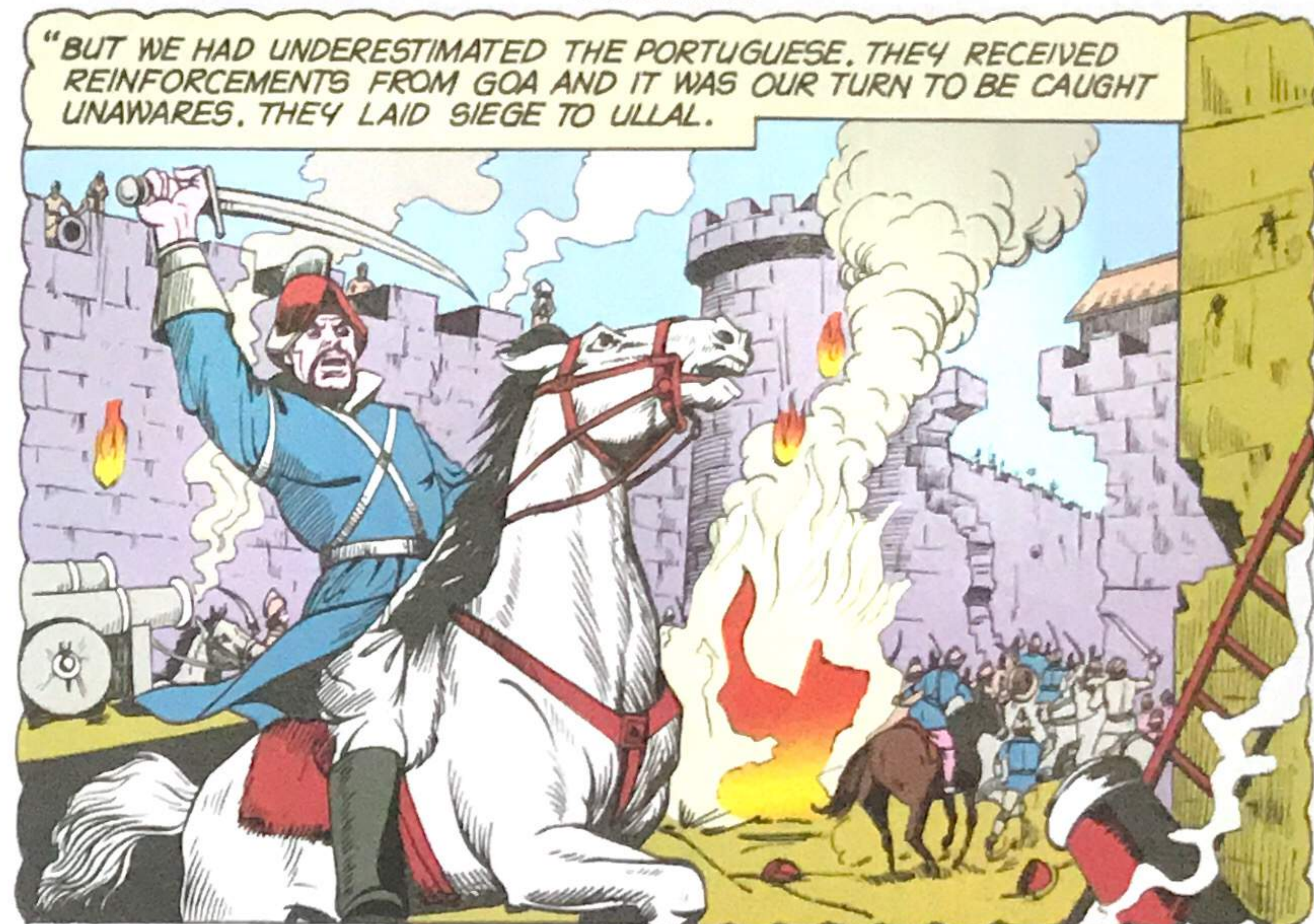


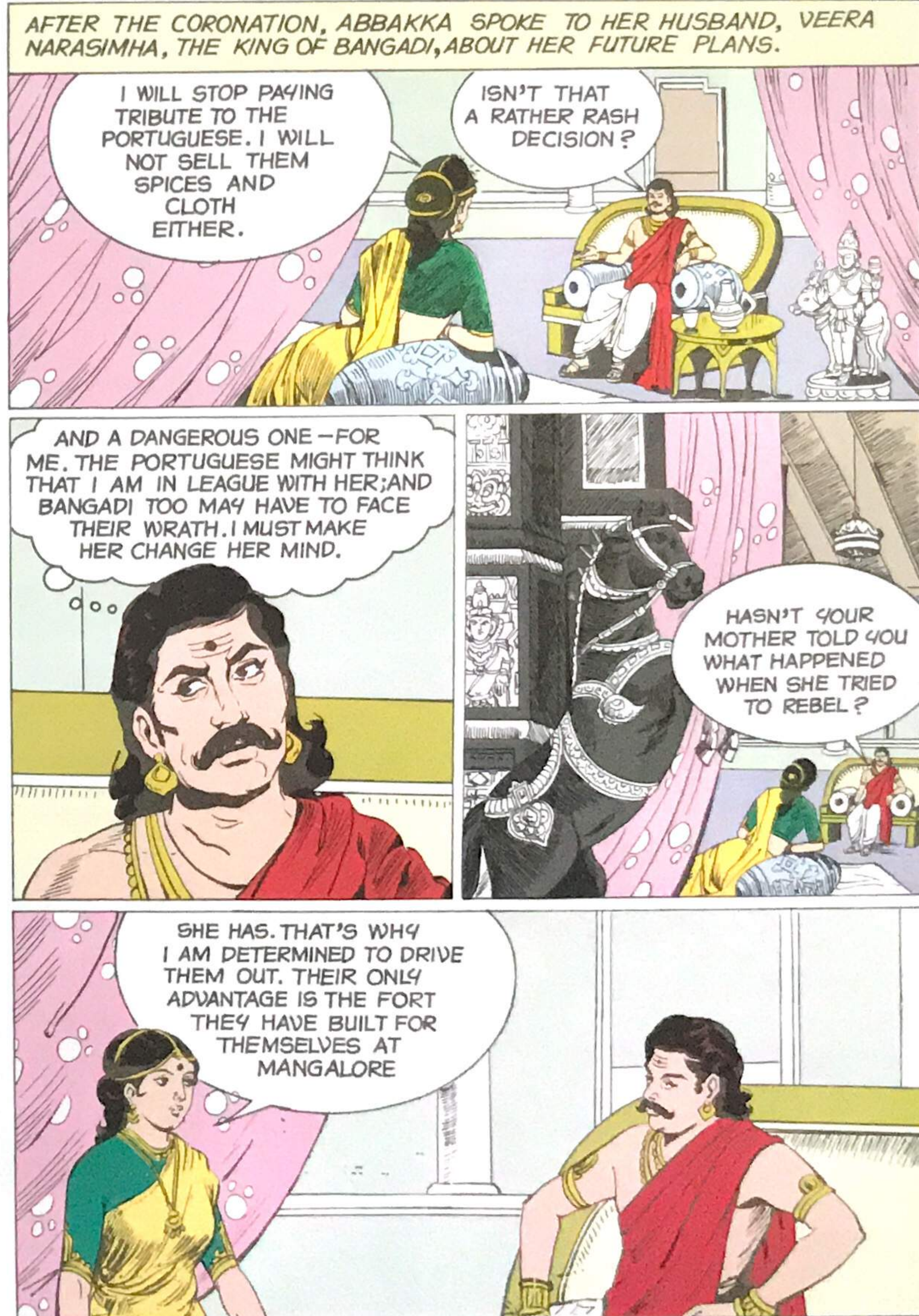
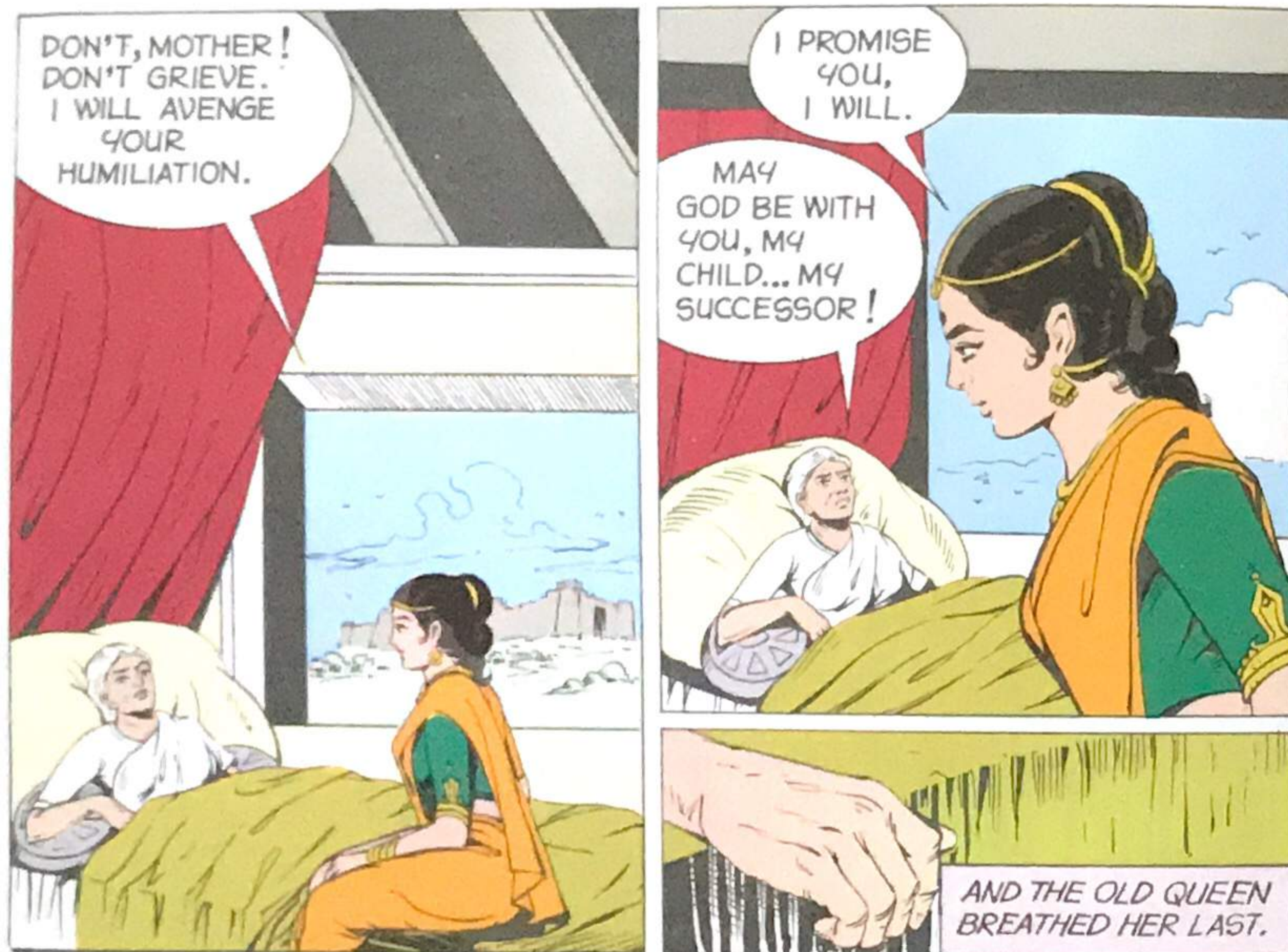
"WE SPOTTED THE FOURTEEN PORTUGUESE SHIPS ANCHORED THERE. OUR ARCHERS WERE READY WITH THEIR FIRE-TIPPED ARROWS."

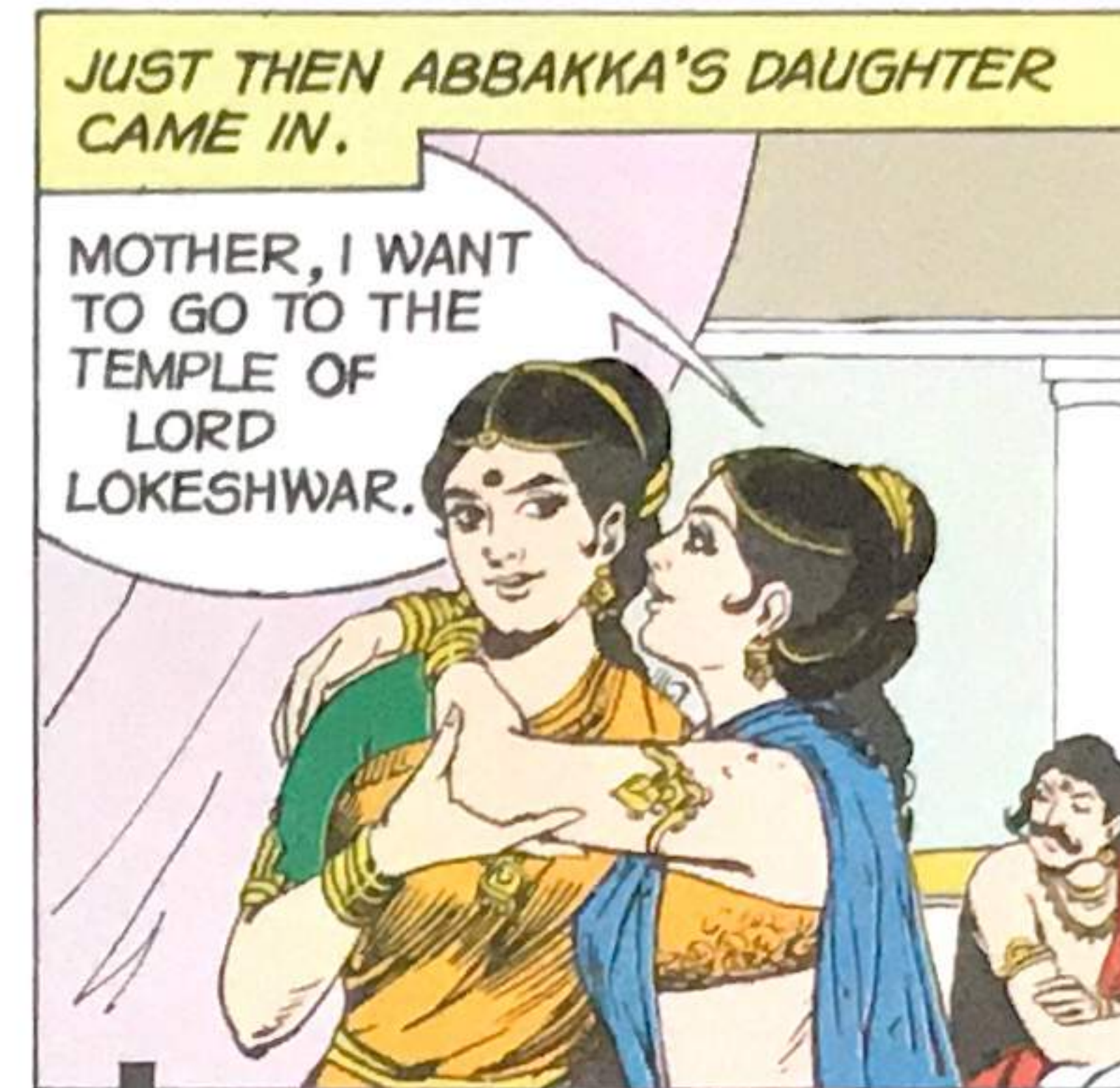
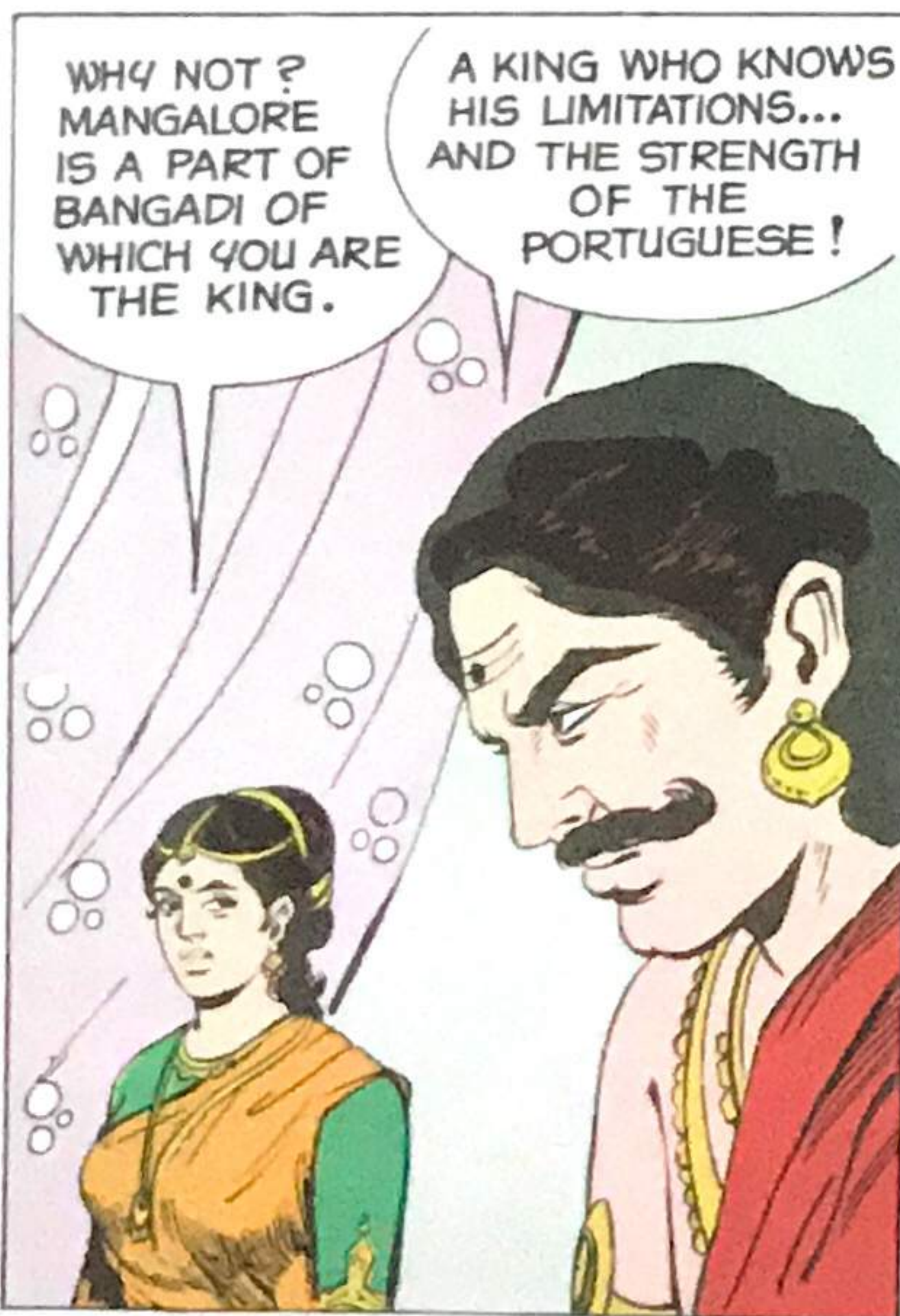
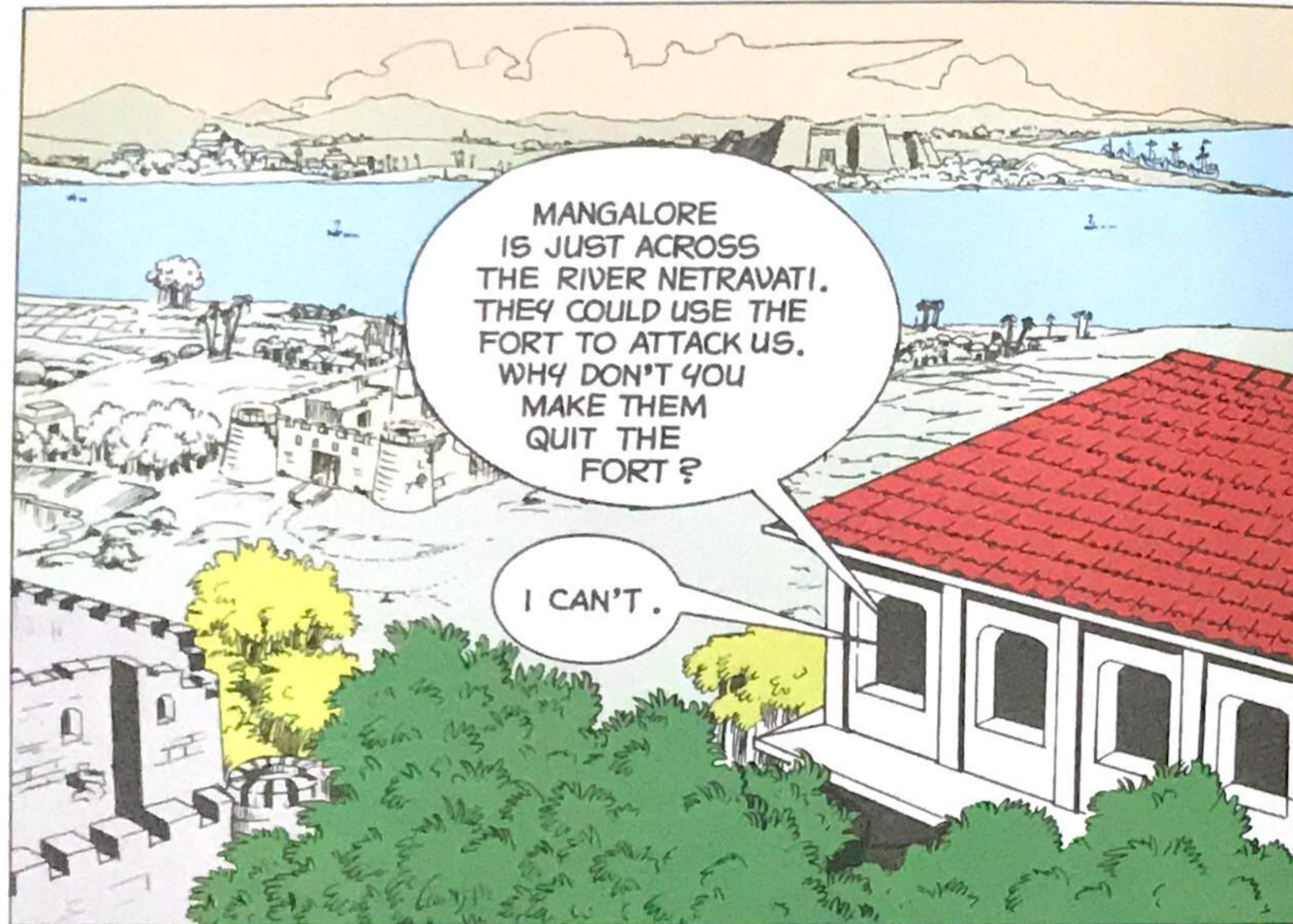
SHOOT!



"THE WAR-SHIPS WERE SOON ABLAZE."







HAVING GOT HER WAY, THE PRINCESS WALKED AWAY.

WE SHOULD FIND A GOOD HUSBAND FOR OUR DAUGHTER.



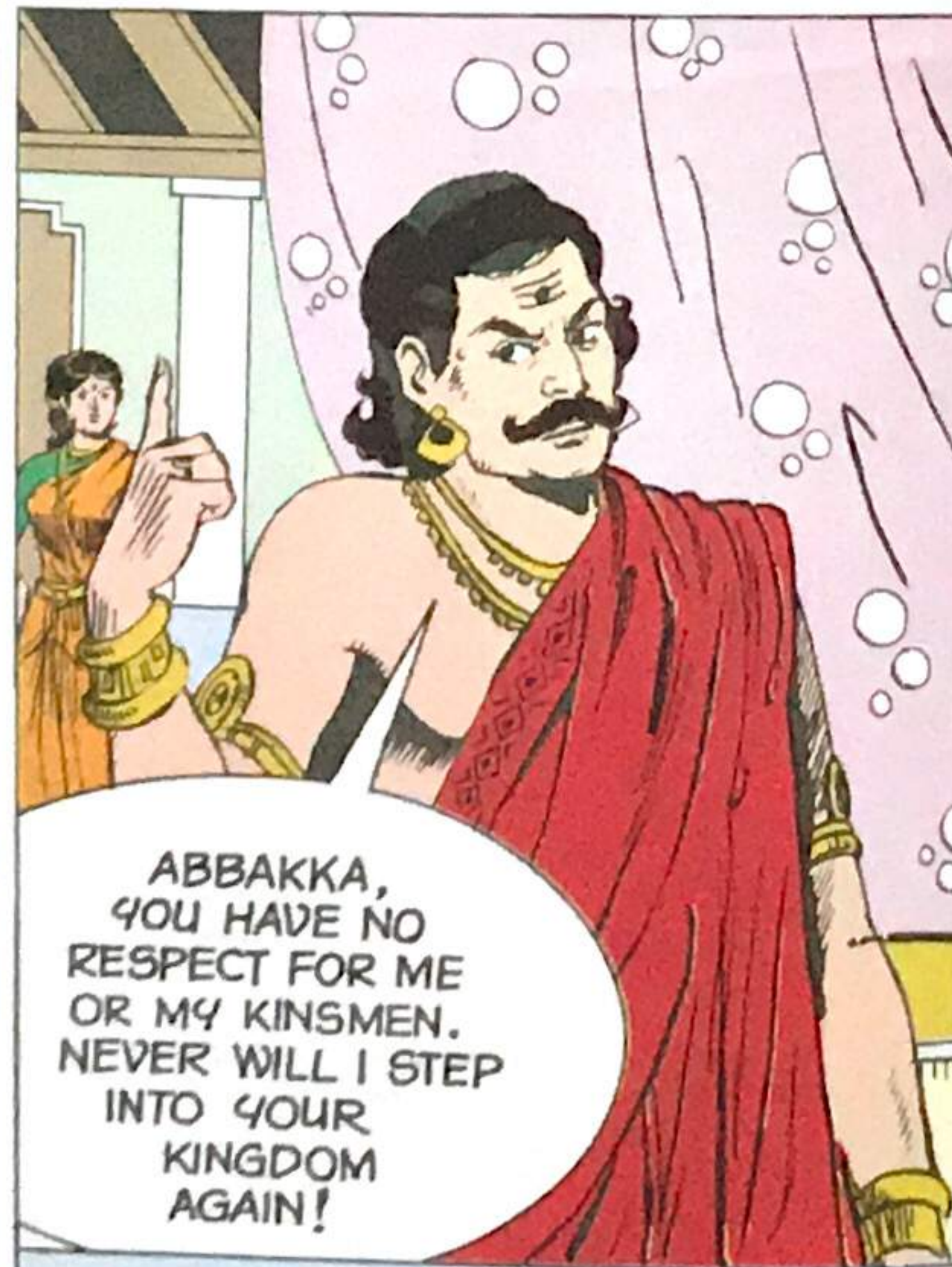
I HAVE ALREADY FOUND ONE. THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF BANGADI — MY NEPHEW!



YOUR NEPHEW? THAT SPINELESS WASTREL? CERTAINLY NOT! MY DAUGHTER SHALL MARRY A MAN OF CHARACTER!



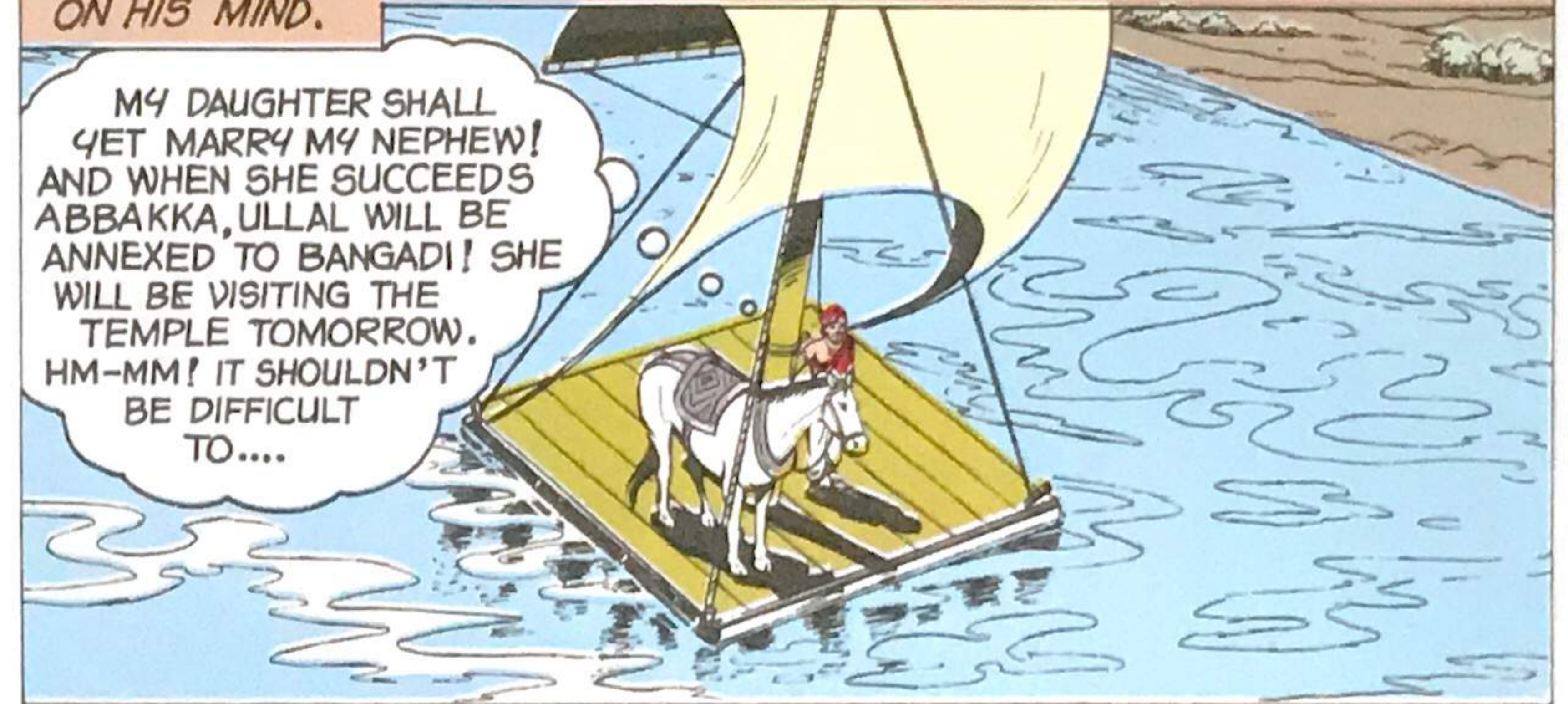
ABBAKKA, YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR ME OR MY KINSMEN. NEVER WILL I STEP INTO YOUR KINGDOM AGAIN!



AND VEERA NARASIMHA STOMPED OUT OF THE PALACE.

AS HE SAILED TOWARDS BANGADI, VEERA NARASIMHA HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT ON HIS MIND.

MY DAUGHTER SHALL YET MARRY MY NEPHEW! AND WHEN SHE SUCCEEDS ABBAKKA, ULLAL WILL BE ANNEXED TO BANGADI! SHE WILL BE VISITING THE TEMPLE TOMORROW. HM-MM! IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO....



UNAWARE OF HER FATHER'S INTENTIONS, THE PRINCESS LEFT ULLAL FOR MANGALORE.

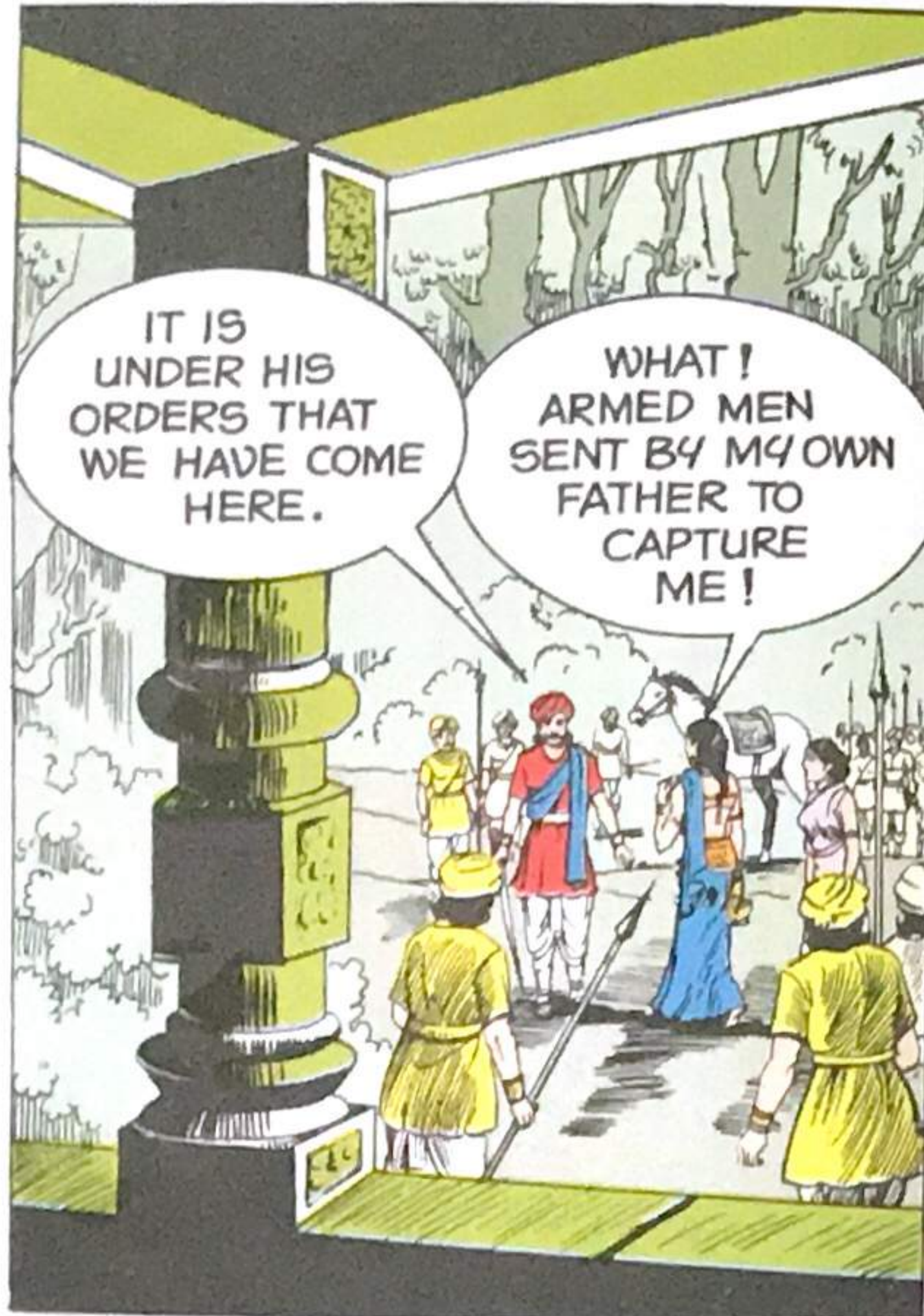
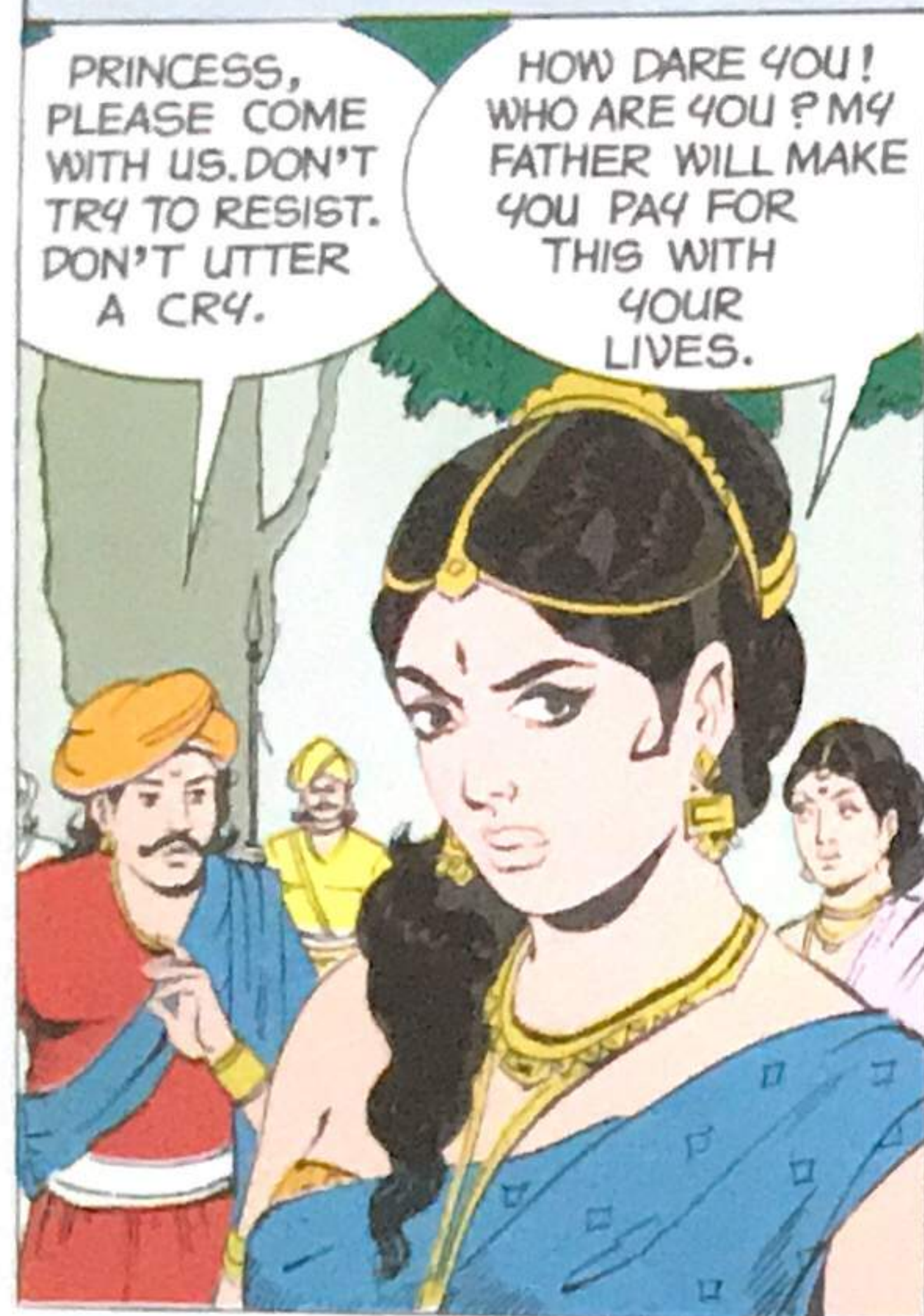


AT THE TEMPLE —

LORD, STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF MY MOTHER. HELP US DRIVE AWAY THE PORTUGUESE.



AS SHE CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE —



THE MEN WERE FROM ULLAL. THEY FELL UPON THE KIDNAPPERS AND ROUTED THEM.



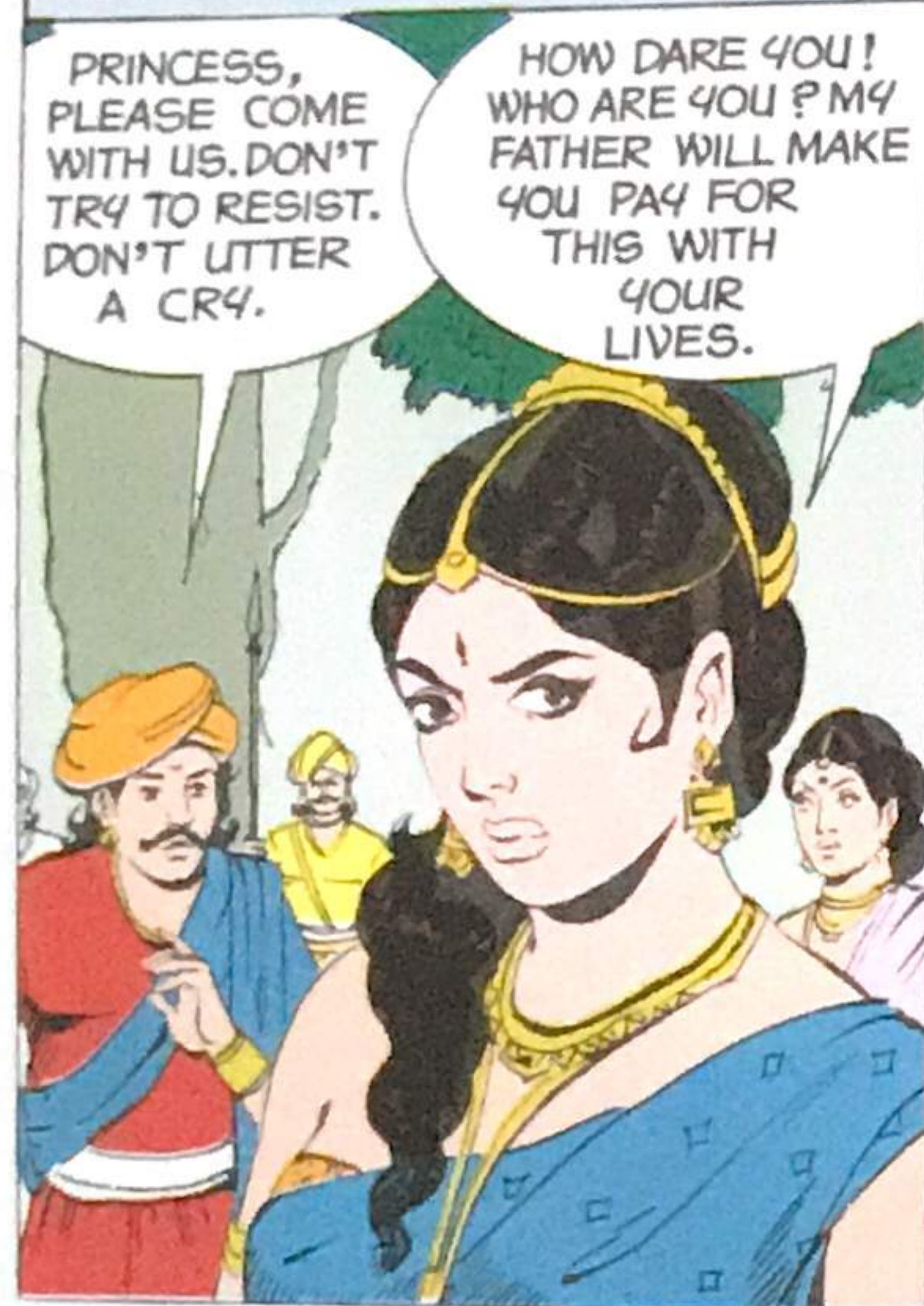
AS THEY ESCORTED THE PRINCESS BACK TO ULLAL —



WHEN SHE HEARD OF IT, ABBAKKA WAS HORRIFIED.

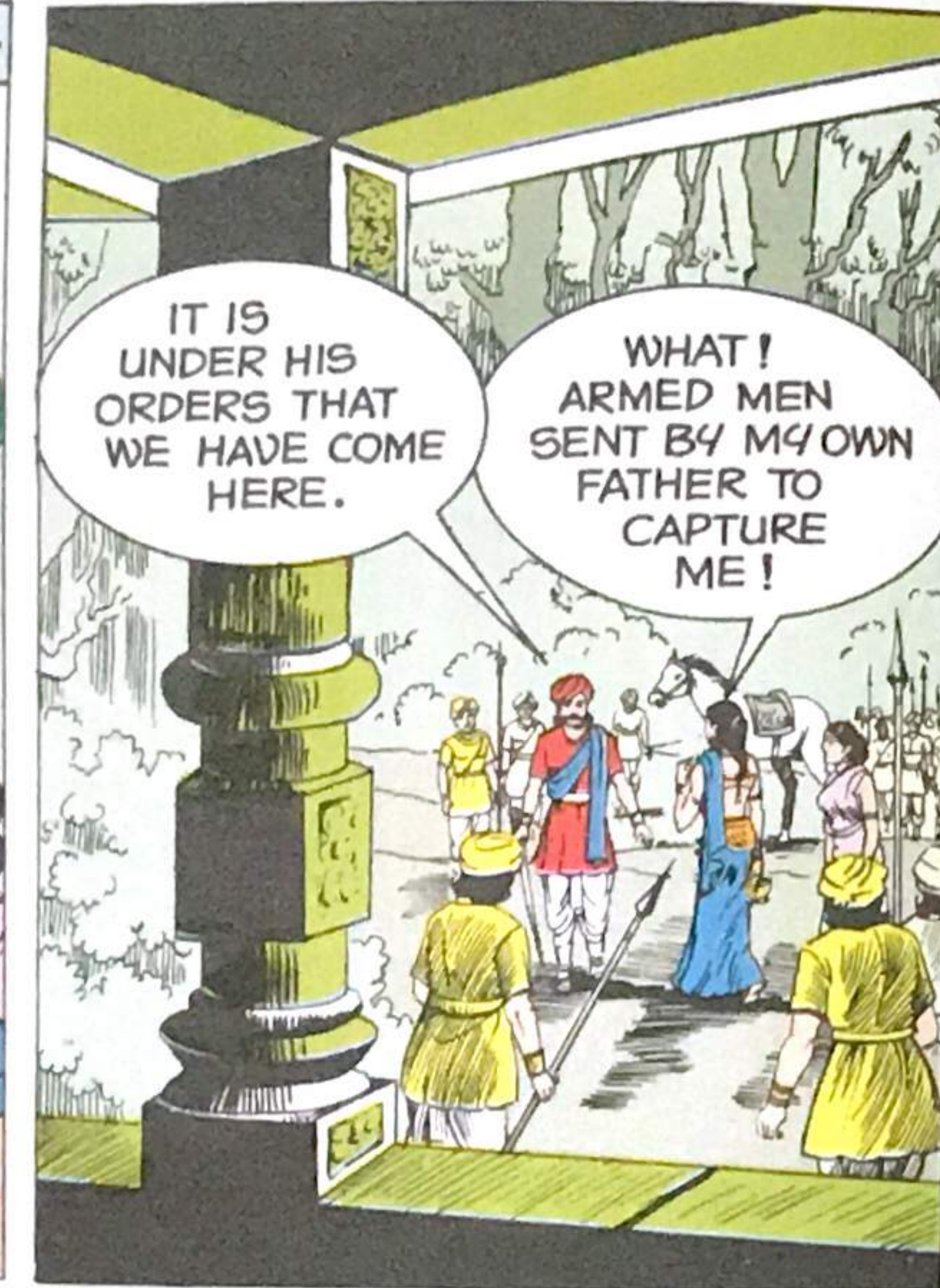


AS SHE CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE —



PRINCESS,
PLEASE COME
WITH US. DON'T
TRY TO RESIST.
DON'T UTTER
A CR4.

HOW DARE YOU!
WHO ARE YOU? MY
FATHER WILL MAKE
YOU PAY FOR
THIS WITH
YOUR LIVES.



IT IS
UNDER HIS
ORDERS THAT
WE HAVE COME
HERE.

WHAT!
ARMED MEN
SENT BY MY OWN
FATHER TO
CAPTURE
ME!



I WILL NOT
BOW TO BRUTE
FORCE. NOT EVEN
FROM MY OWN
FATHER.

BE
REASONABLE,
PLEASE DON'T
COMPEL US
TO...



LOOK!
SOLDIERS!
THEY MUST
BE FROM
ULLAL!

THE MEN WERE FROM ULLAL. THEY FELL
UPON THE KIDNAPPERS AND ROUTED THEM.



AS THEY ESCORTED THE
PRINCESS BACK TO ULLAL —



EXPECTING
TROUBLE FROM
THE PORTUGUESE,
THE QUEEN SENT
US AFTER
YOU.



AND TO OUR
SURPRISE, WE FOUND
YOUR FATHER'S MEN
TRYING TO CARRY
YOU AWAY!



WHEN SHE HEARD OF IT, ABBAKKA
WAS HORRIFIED.

HOW COULD HE STOOP
SO LOW! I MUST ACT FAST
AND MARRY HER OFF
TO A WORTHY PRINCE.

AND SOON THE PRINCESS WAS MARRIED TO A NOBLE PRINCE. ALL THE RULERS OF THE NEIGHBOURING TERRITORIES, EXCEPT VEERA NARASIMHA, CAME TO ULLAL FOR THE WEDDING.



AFTER THE WEDDING, ABBAKKA ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE RAJAS.



IF WE UNITE AND FIGHT, WE COULD DRIVE THE PORTUGUESE OUT OF OUR LAND.

IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THEM.

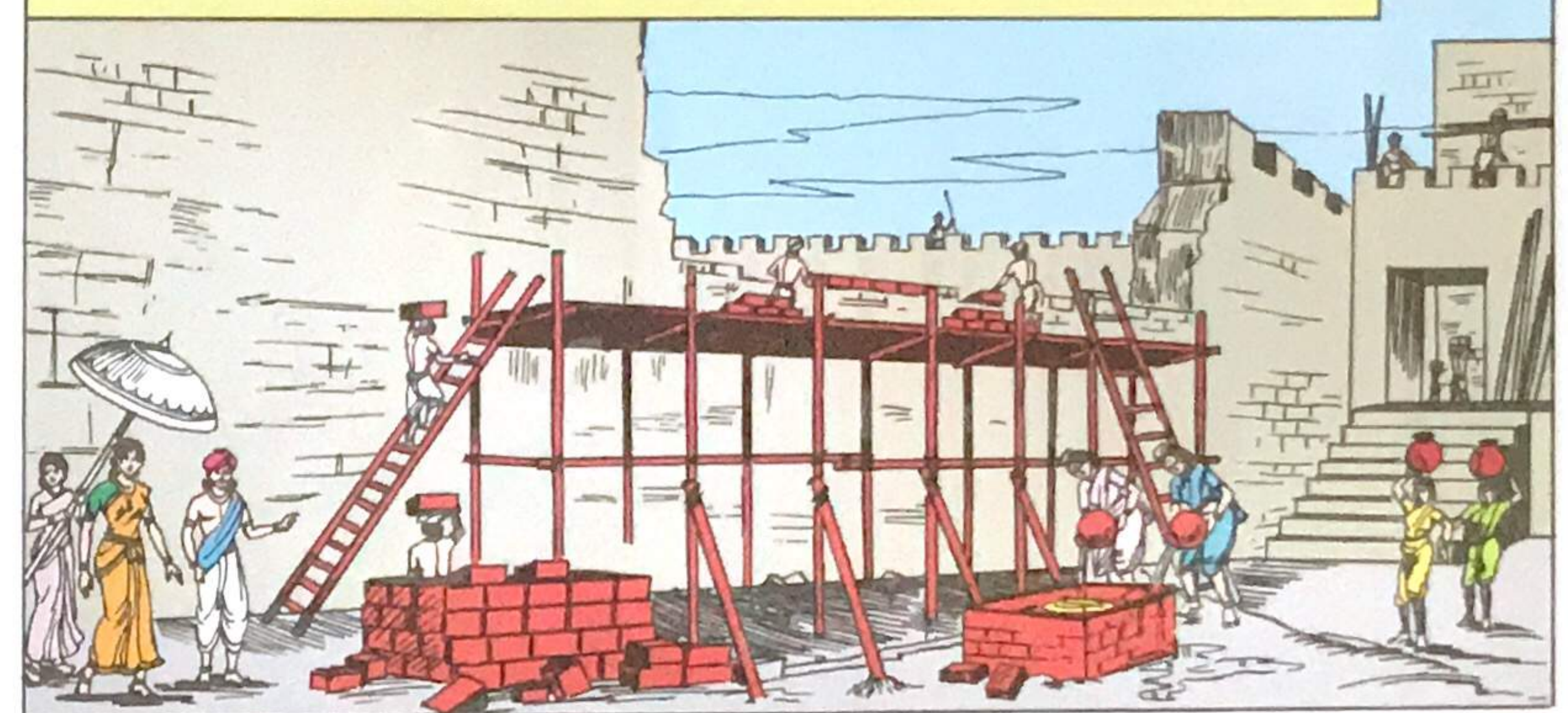
I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO PROVOKE THEM.

THEIR REACTIONS ONLY SERVED TO STRENGTHEN ABBAKKA'S RESOLVE.



I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THE PORTUGUESE ALONE. FOR FIGHT THEM I WILL — SINGLE-HANDED, IF NEED BE!

HER FIRST MOVE WAS TO RESTORE THE RUINED FORT OF ULLAL.



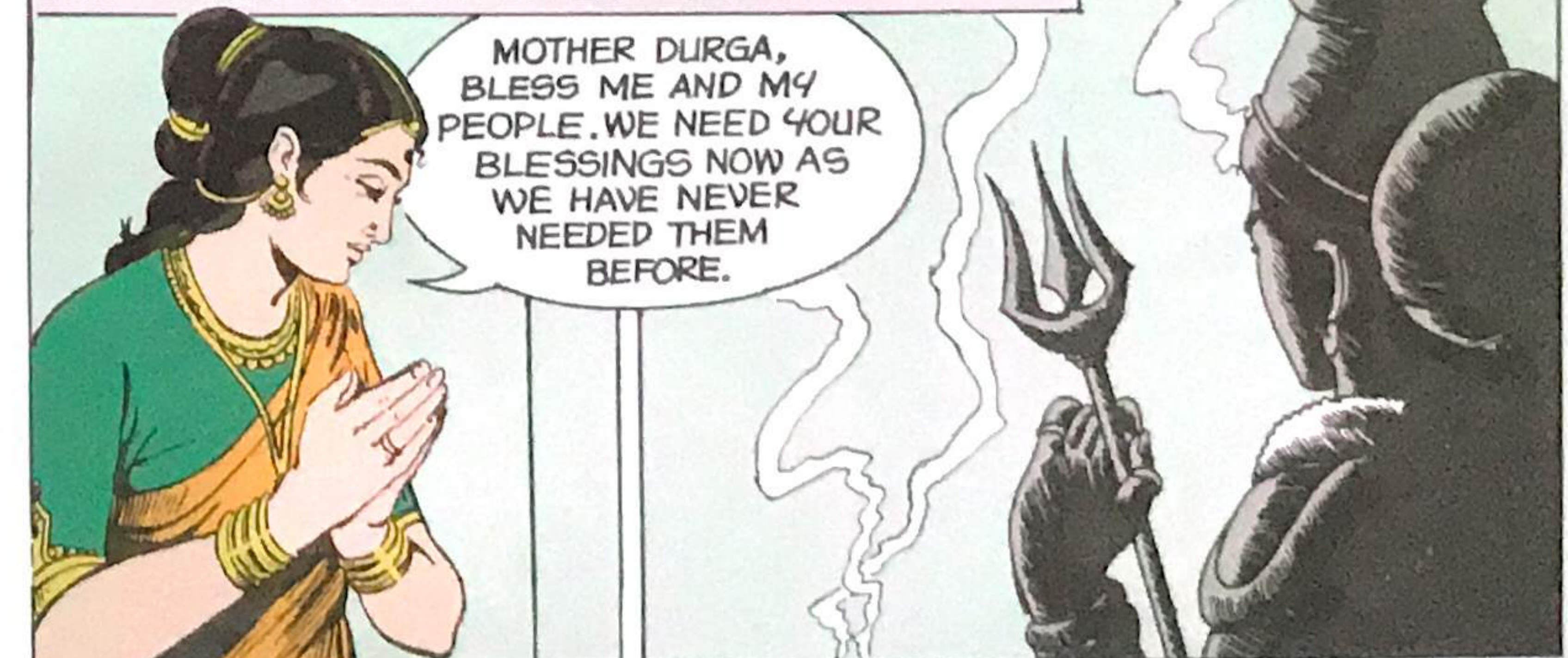
THEN SHE HAD BIGGER AND BETTER MERCHANT-SHIPS BUILT, FOR TRADE WITH DISTANT COUNTRIES. SOON —



YOUR MAJESTY, WE ARE READY TO SAIL FOR ARABIA.

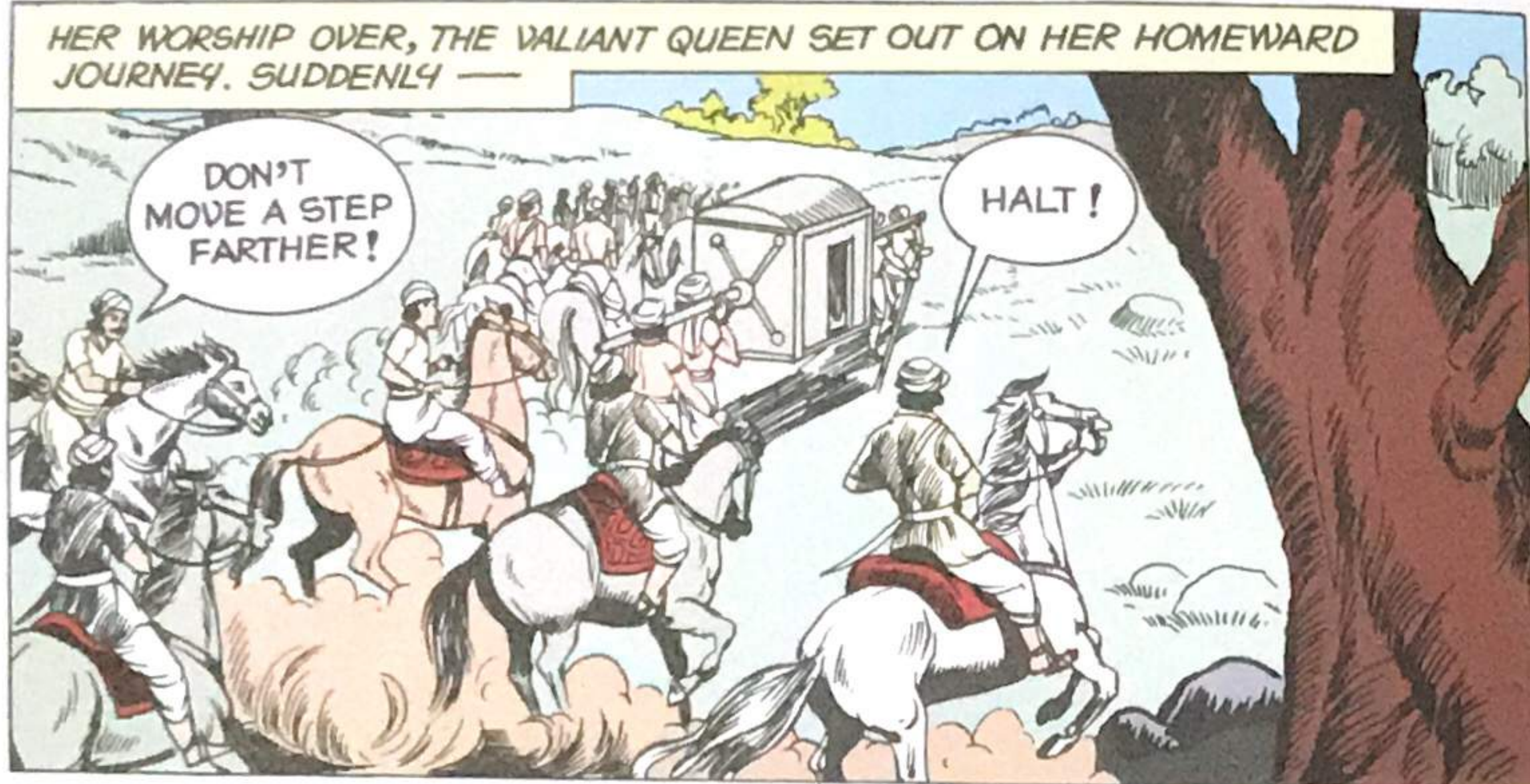
YOU WILL SAIL AS SOON AS I RETURN FROM POLALI.

ABBAKKA HAD OFTEN VISITED THE ANCESTRAL TEMPLE OF DURGA AT POLALI, BUT NEVER HAD HER PRAYERS BEEN SO FERVENT.

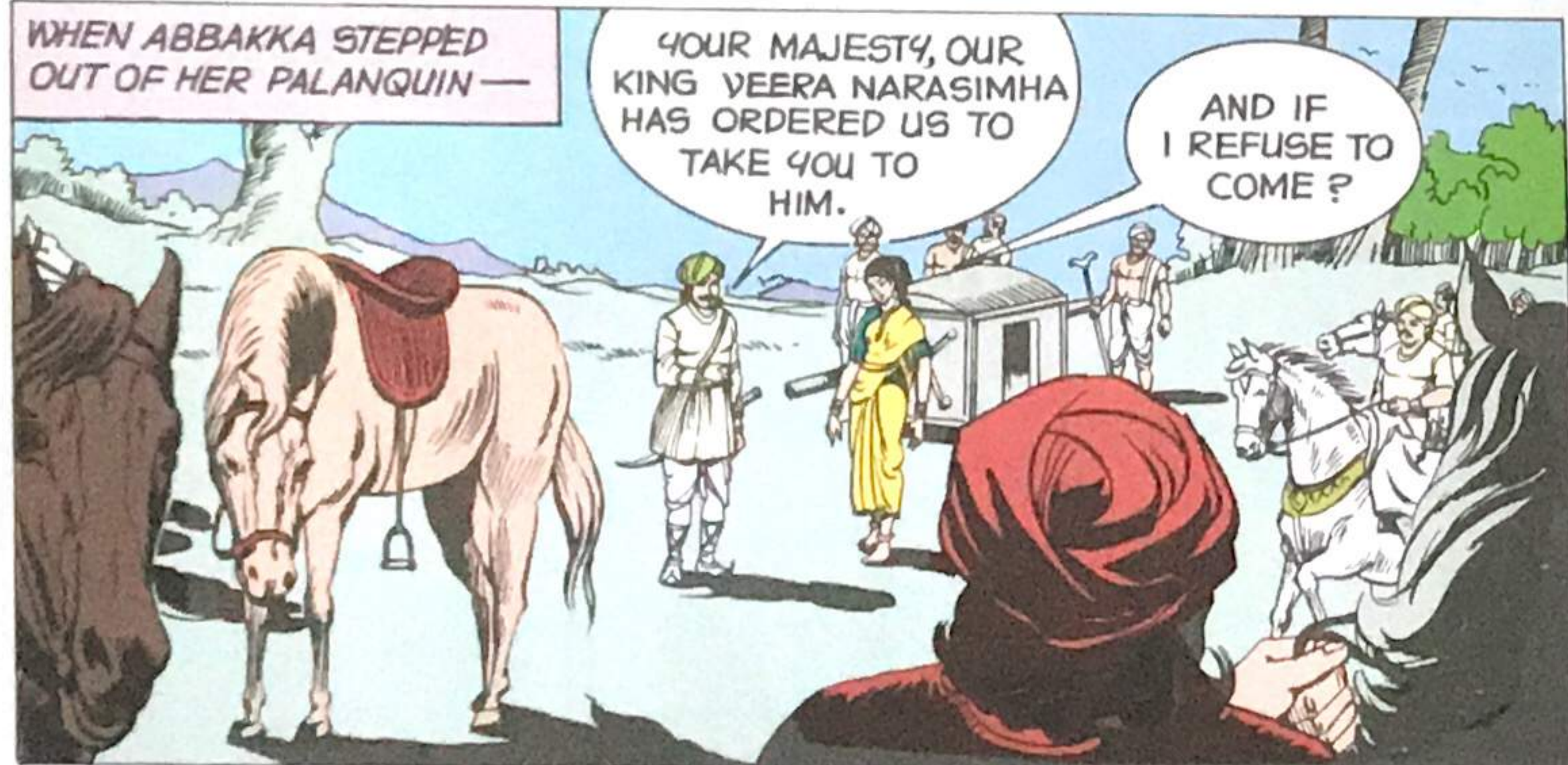


MOTHER DURGA, BLESS ME AND MY PEOPLE. WE NEED YOUR BLESSINGS NOW AS WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED THEM BEFORE.

HER WORSHIP OVER, THE VALIANT QUEEN SET OUT ON HER HOMEWARD JOURNEY. SUDDENLY —



WHEN ABBAKKA STEPPED OUT OF HER PALANQUIN —

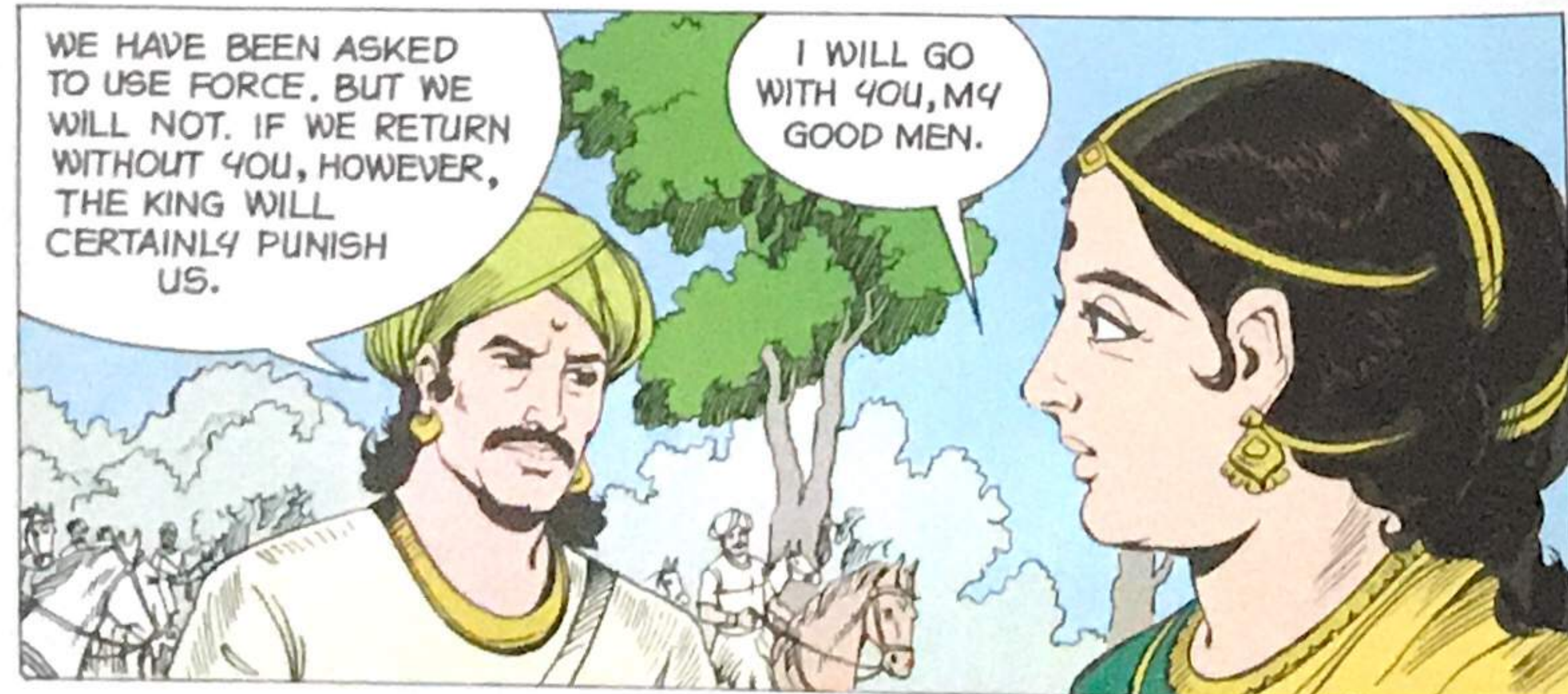


YOUR MAJESTY, OUR KING VEERA NARASIMHA HAS ORDERED US TO TAKE YOU TO HIM.

AND IF I REFUSE TO COME?

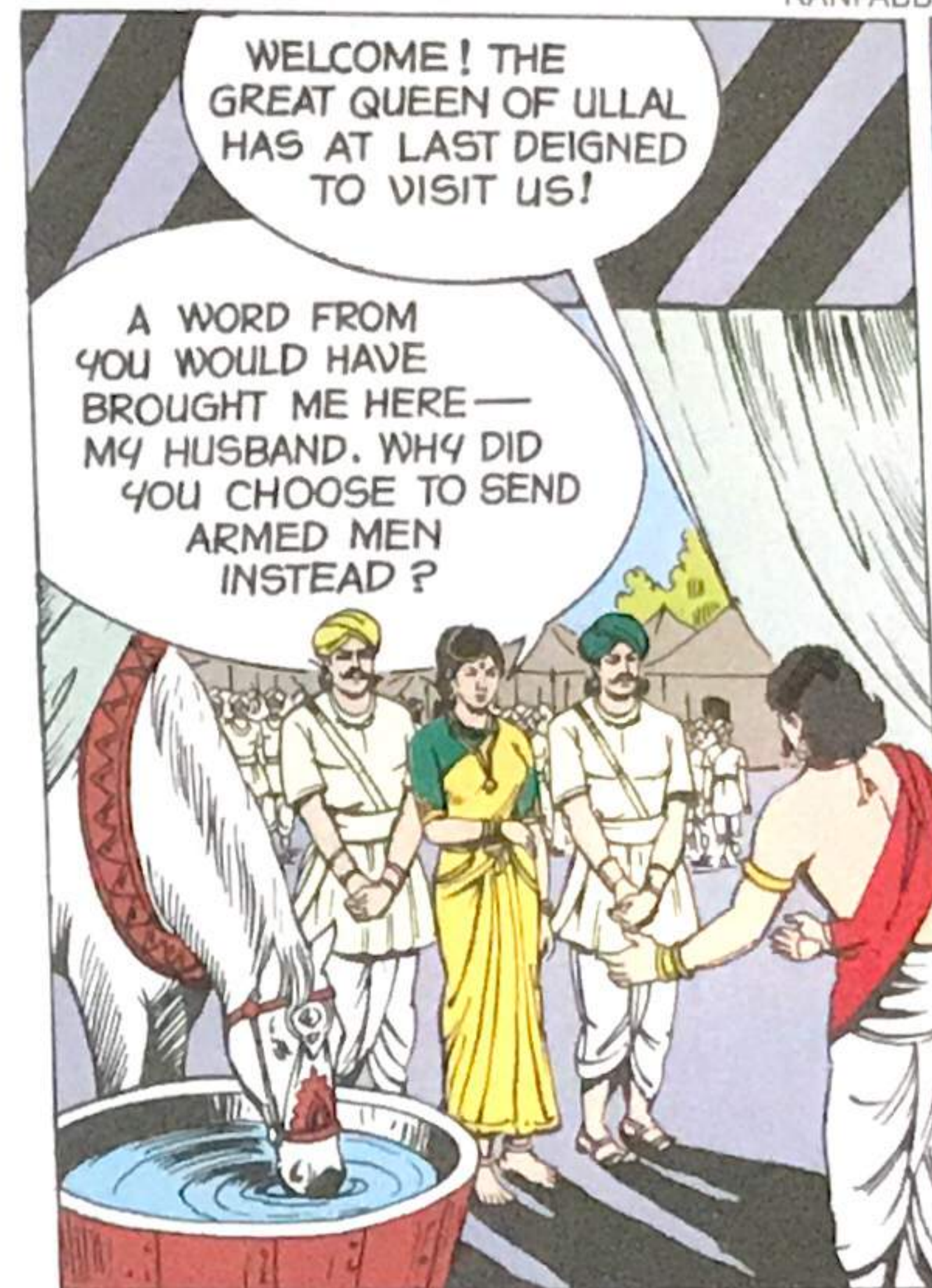
WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO USE FORCE. BUT WE WILL NOT. IF WE RETURN WITHOUT YOU, HOWEVER, THE KING WILL CERTAINLY PUNISH US.

I WILL GO WITH YOU, MY GOOD MEN.

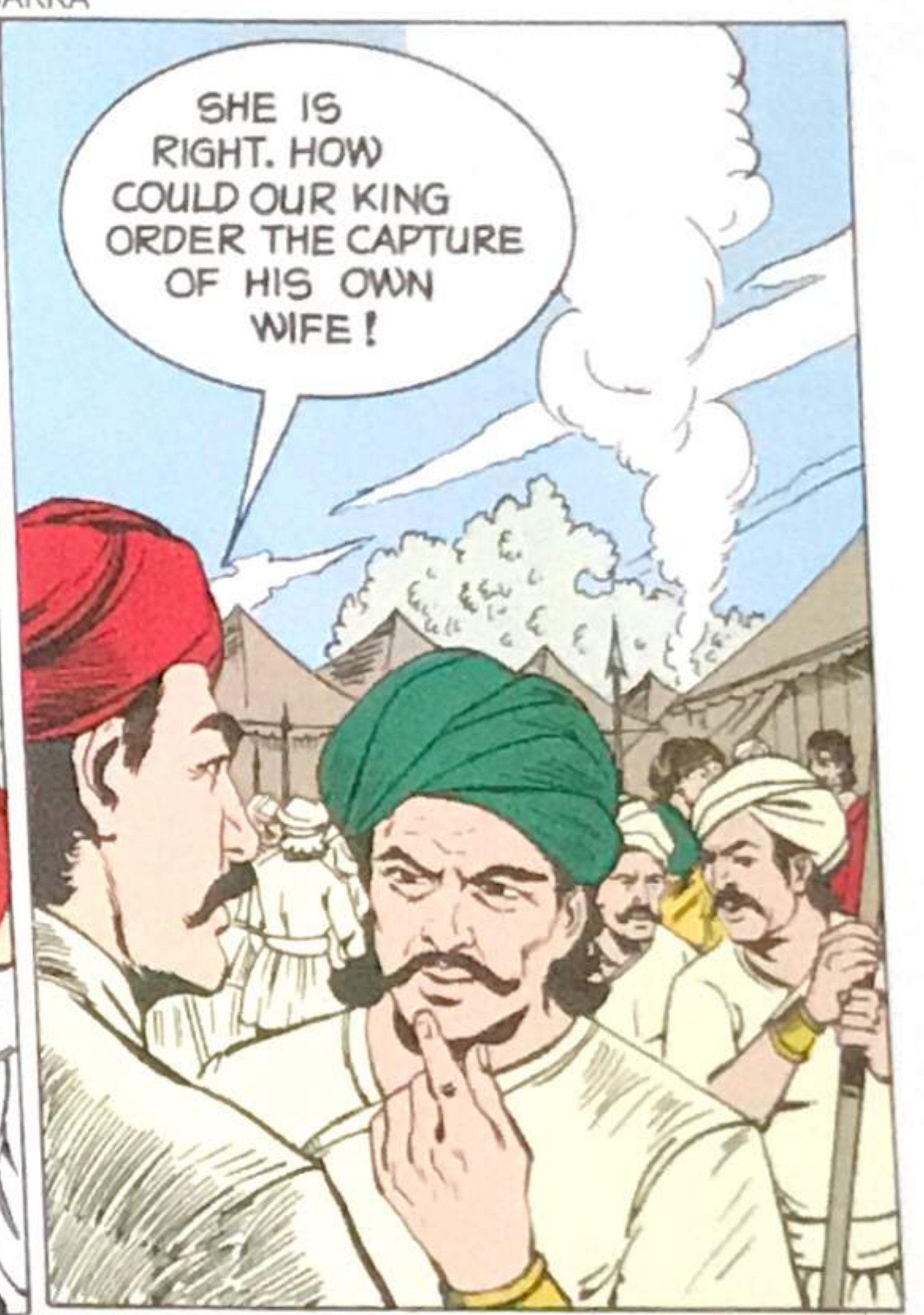


WELCOME! THE GREAT QUEEN OF ULLAL HAS AT LAST DEIGNED TO VISIT US!

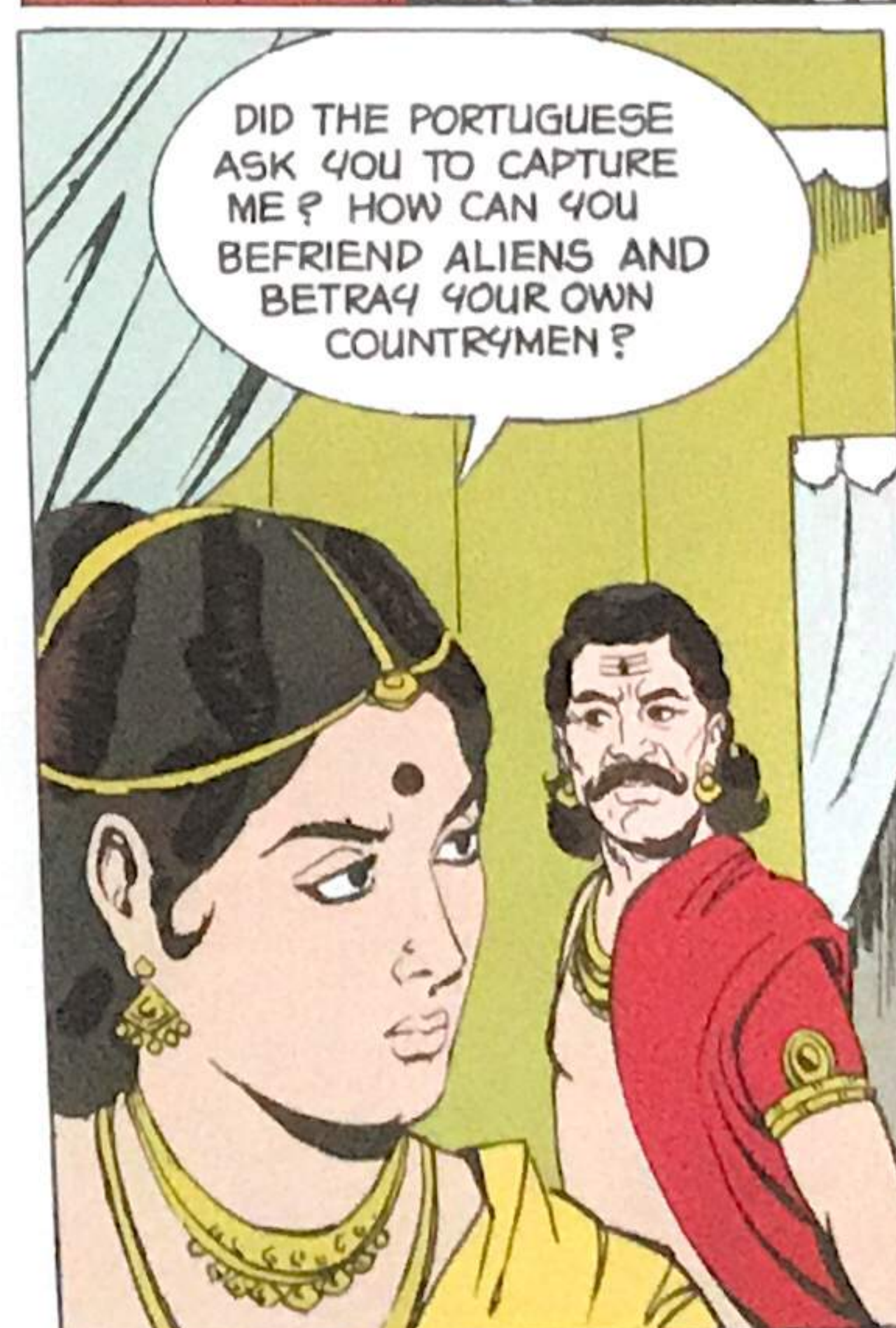
A WORD FROM YOU WOULD HAVE BROUGHT ME HERE — MY HUSBAND. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO SEND ARMED MEN INSTEAD?



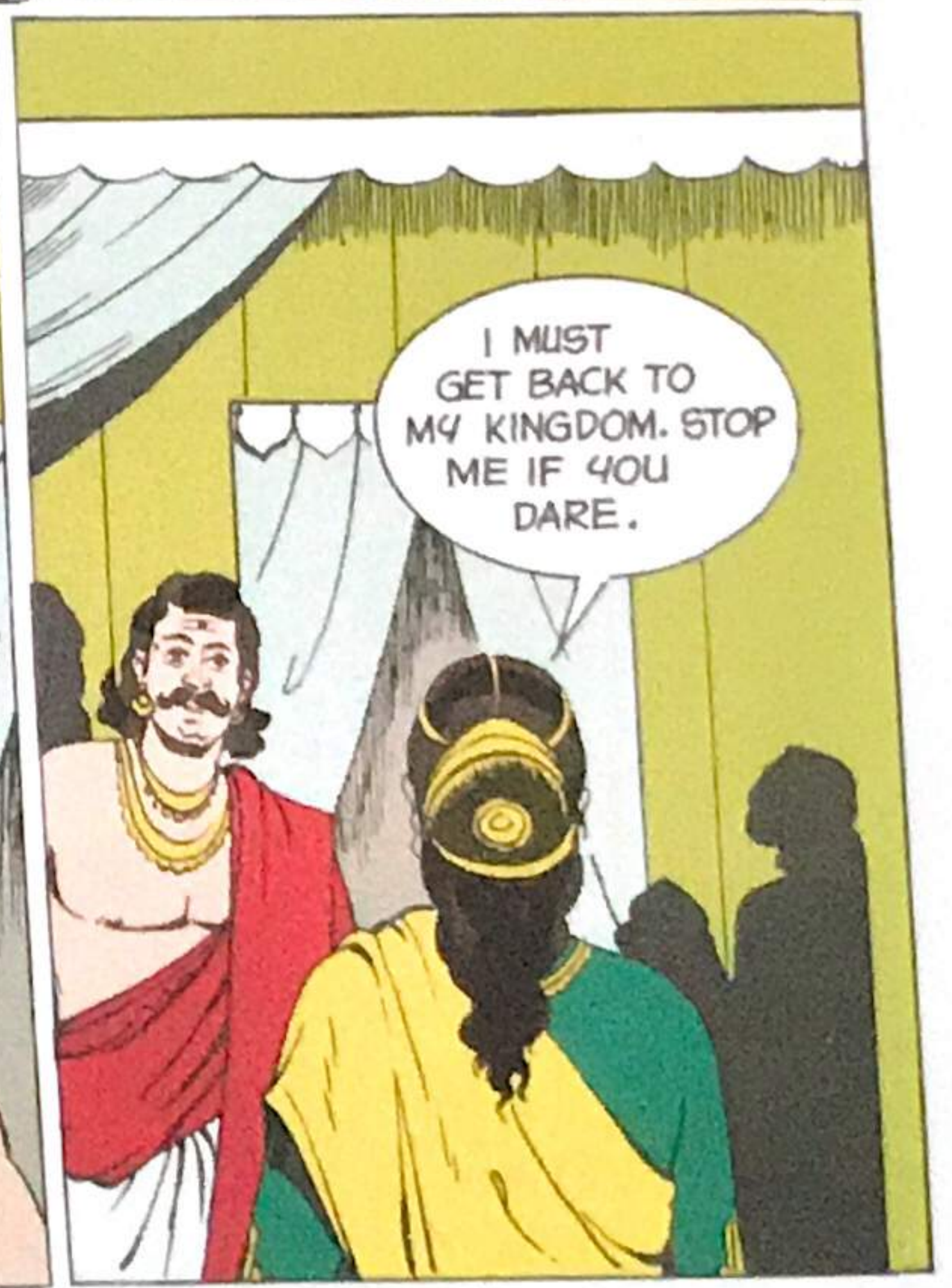
SHE IS RIGHT. HOW COULD OUR KING ORDER THE CAPTURE OF HIS OWN WIFE!



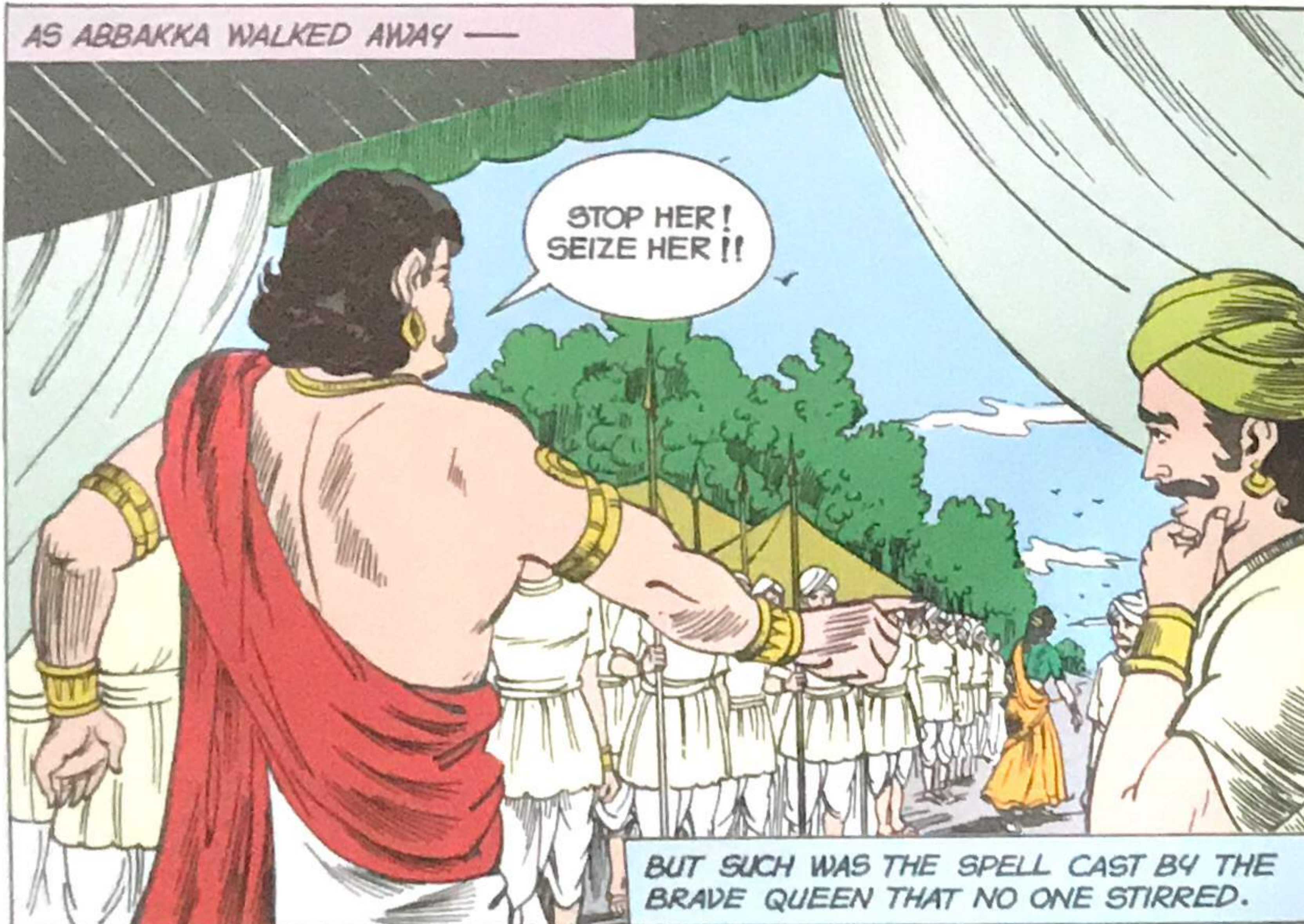
DID THE PORTUGUESE ASK YOU TO CAPTURE ME? HOW CAN YOU BEFRIEND ALIENS AND BETRAY YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN?



I MUST GET BACK TO MY KINGDOM. STOP ME IF YOU DARE.



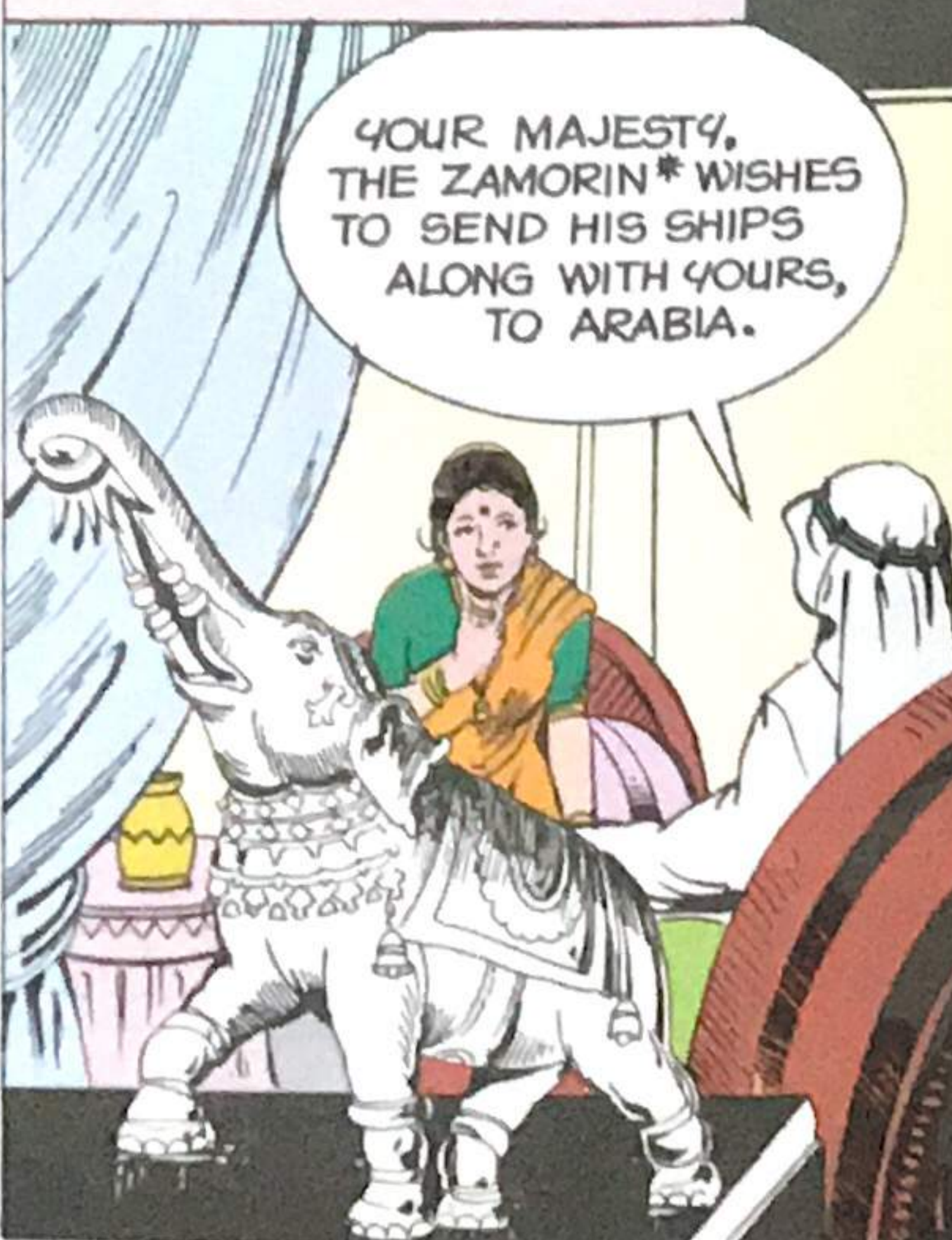
AS ABBAKKA WALKED AWAY —



SUDDENLY —



WHEN ABBAKKA RETURNED TO ULLAL, SHE FOUND AN ENVOY FROM KOZHICODE* AWAITING HER.

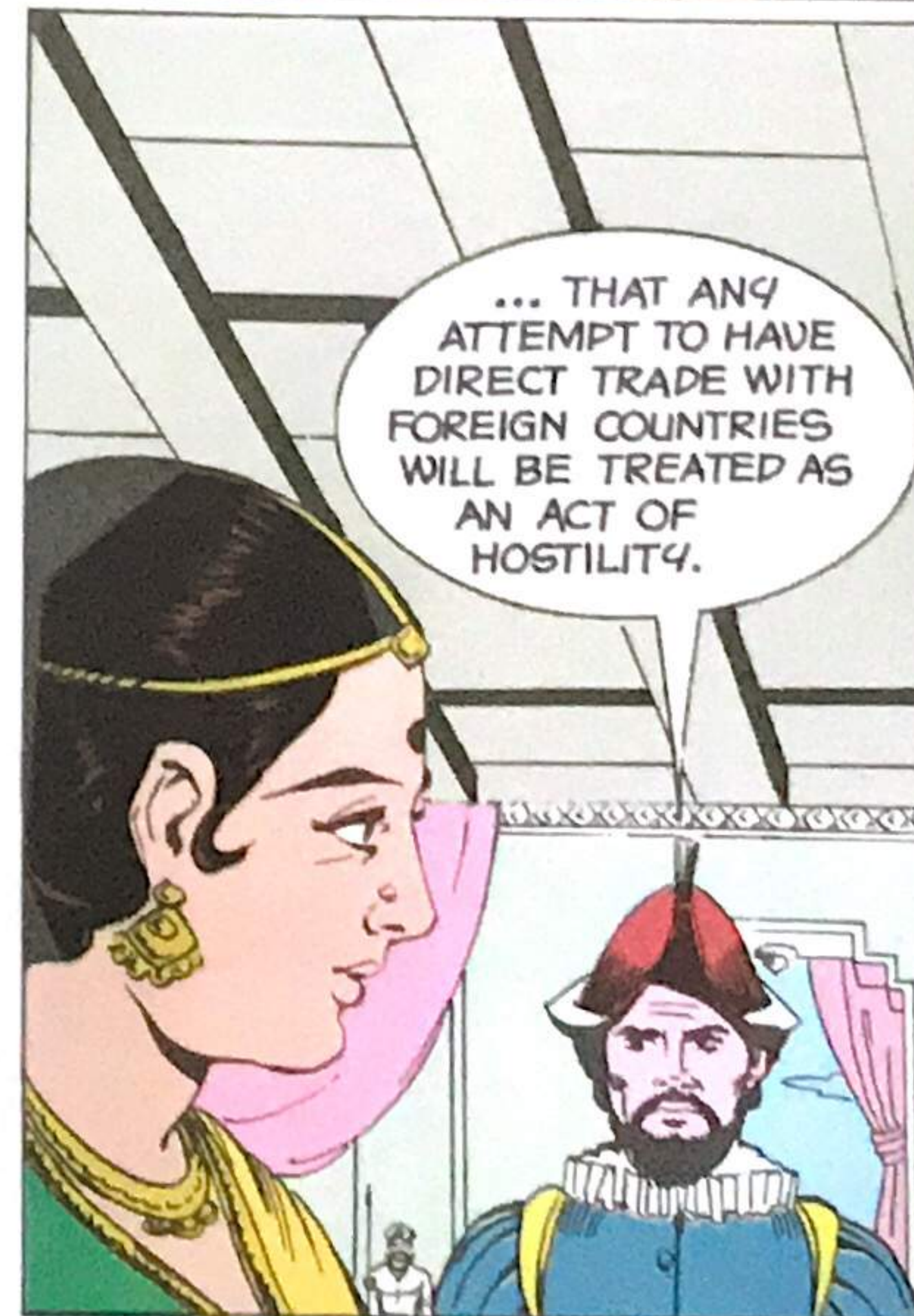


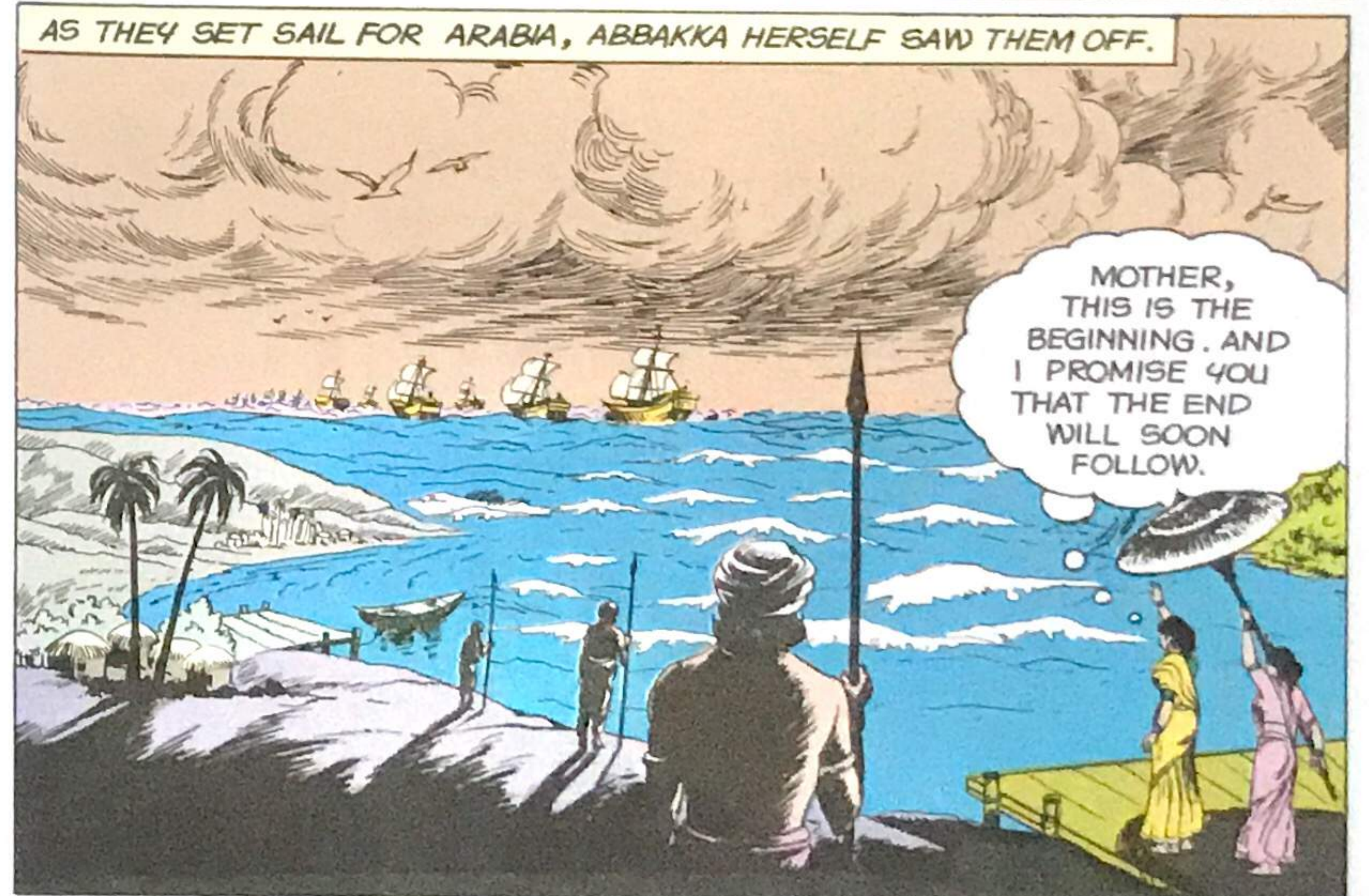
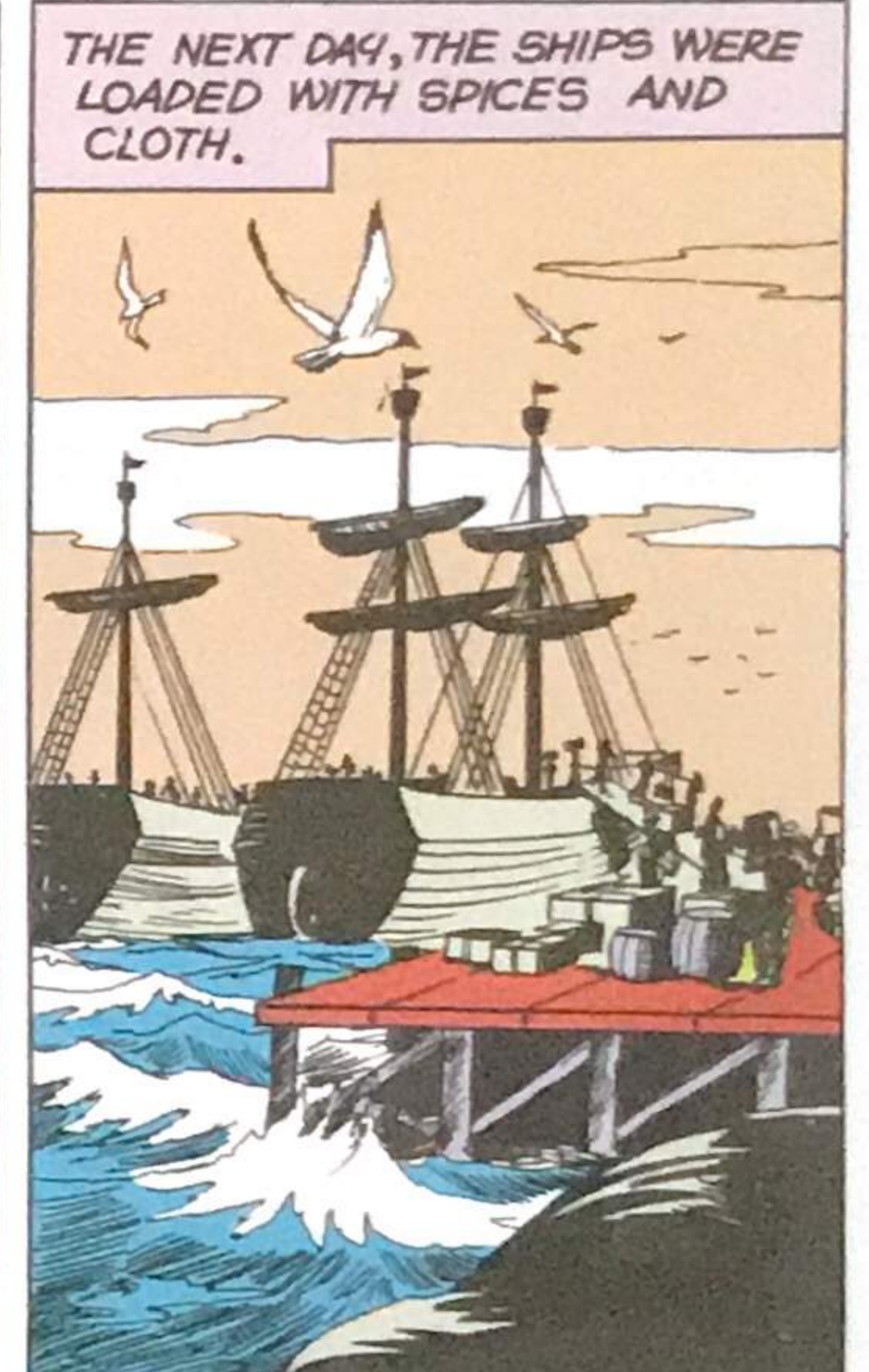
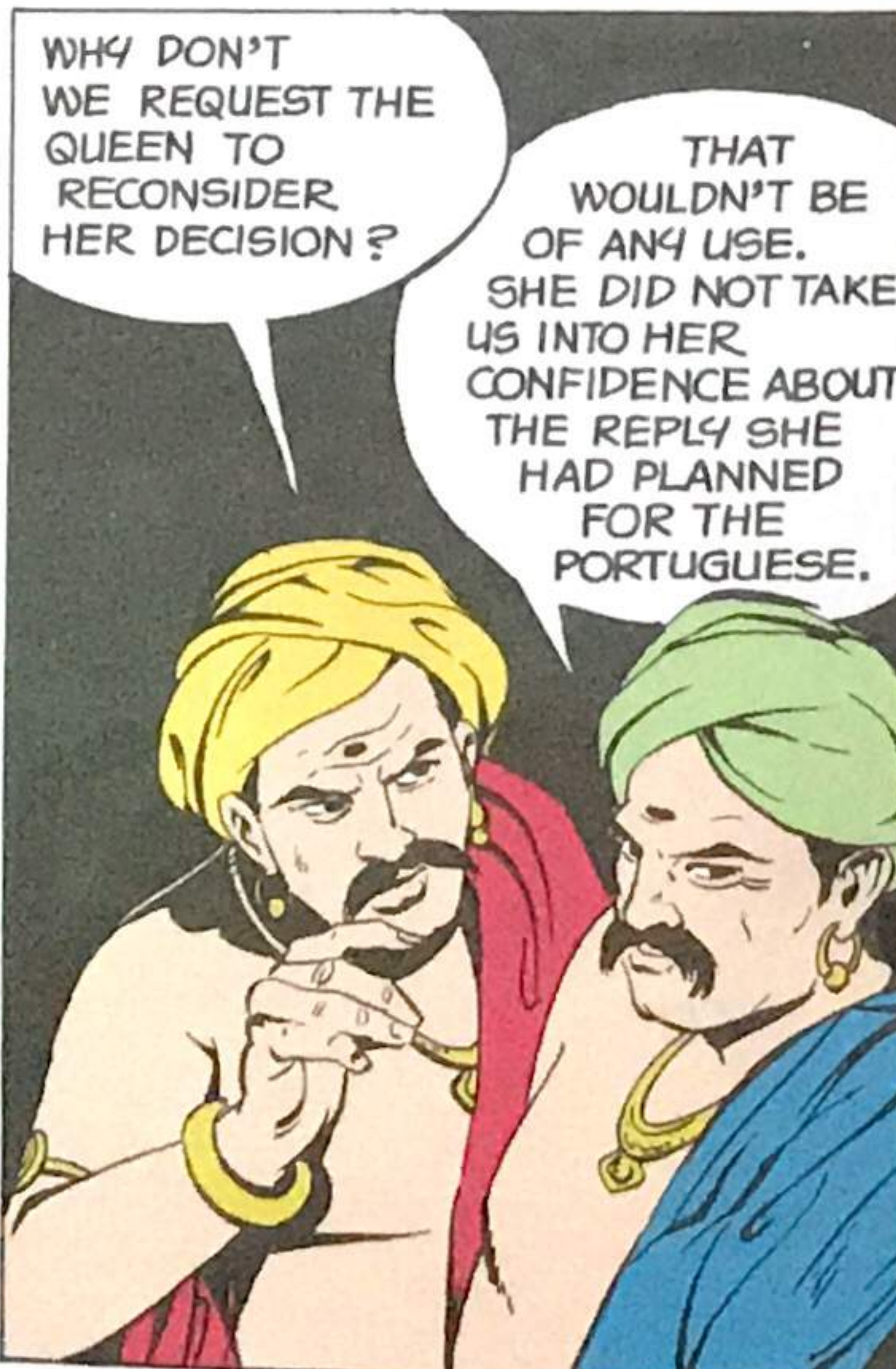
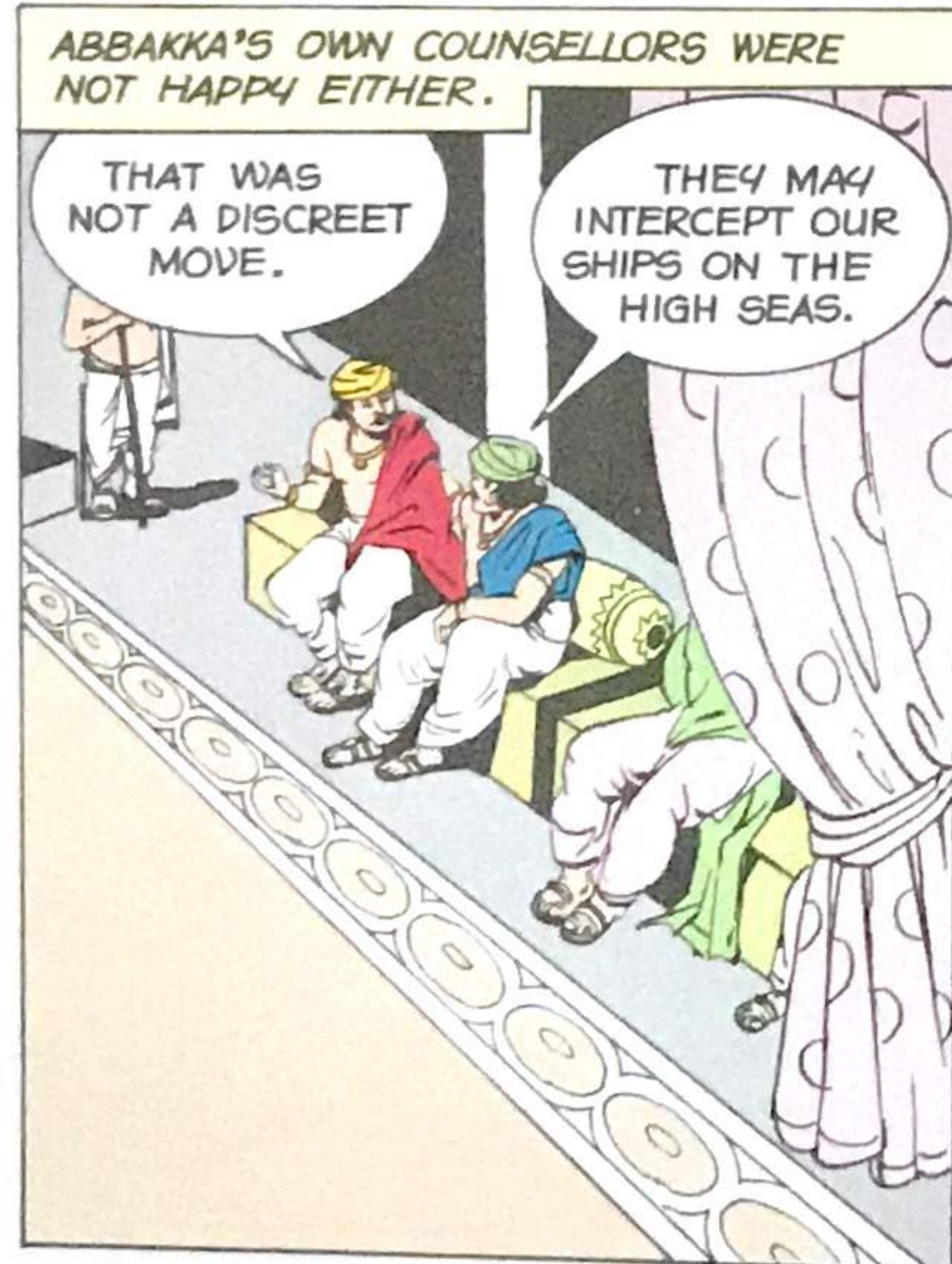
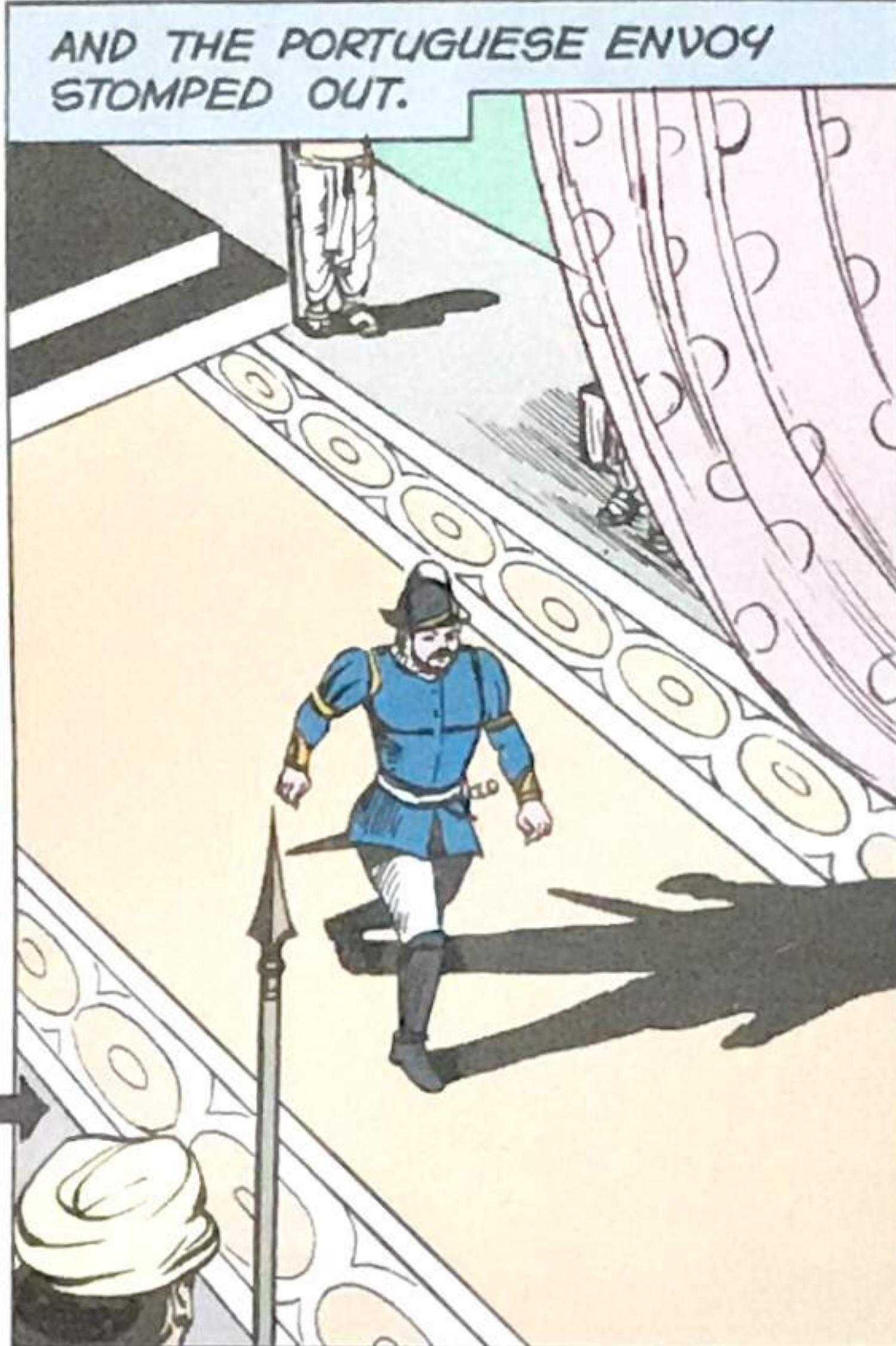
* ALSO KNOWN AS CALICUT

* RULER OF KOZHICODE.

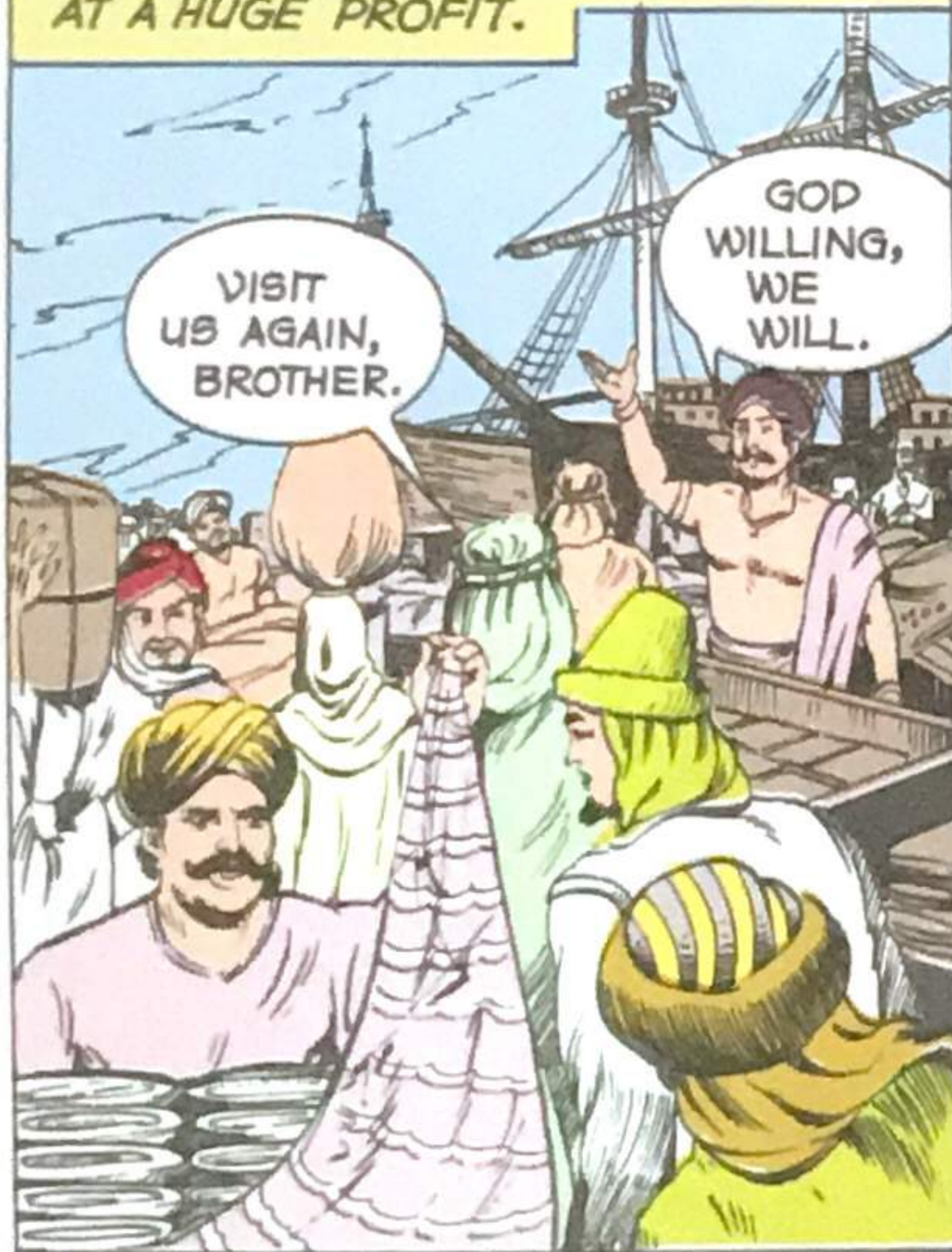


THE NEXT DAY, A PORTUGUESE ENVOY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE QUEEN.





THE SHIPS CALLED AT THE PORT OF ARABIA AND SOLD SPICES AND CLOTH AT A HUGE PROFIT.



THE SHIPS SET OUT ON THE RETURN JOURNEY. ON THE WAY —



THE PORTUGUESE SAILORS SWUNG ON BOARD THE INDIAN SHIPS.



A FIERCE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.



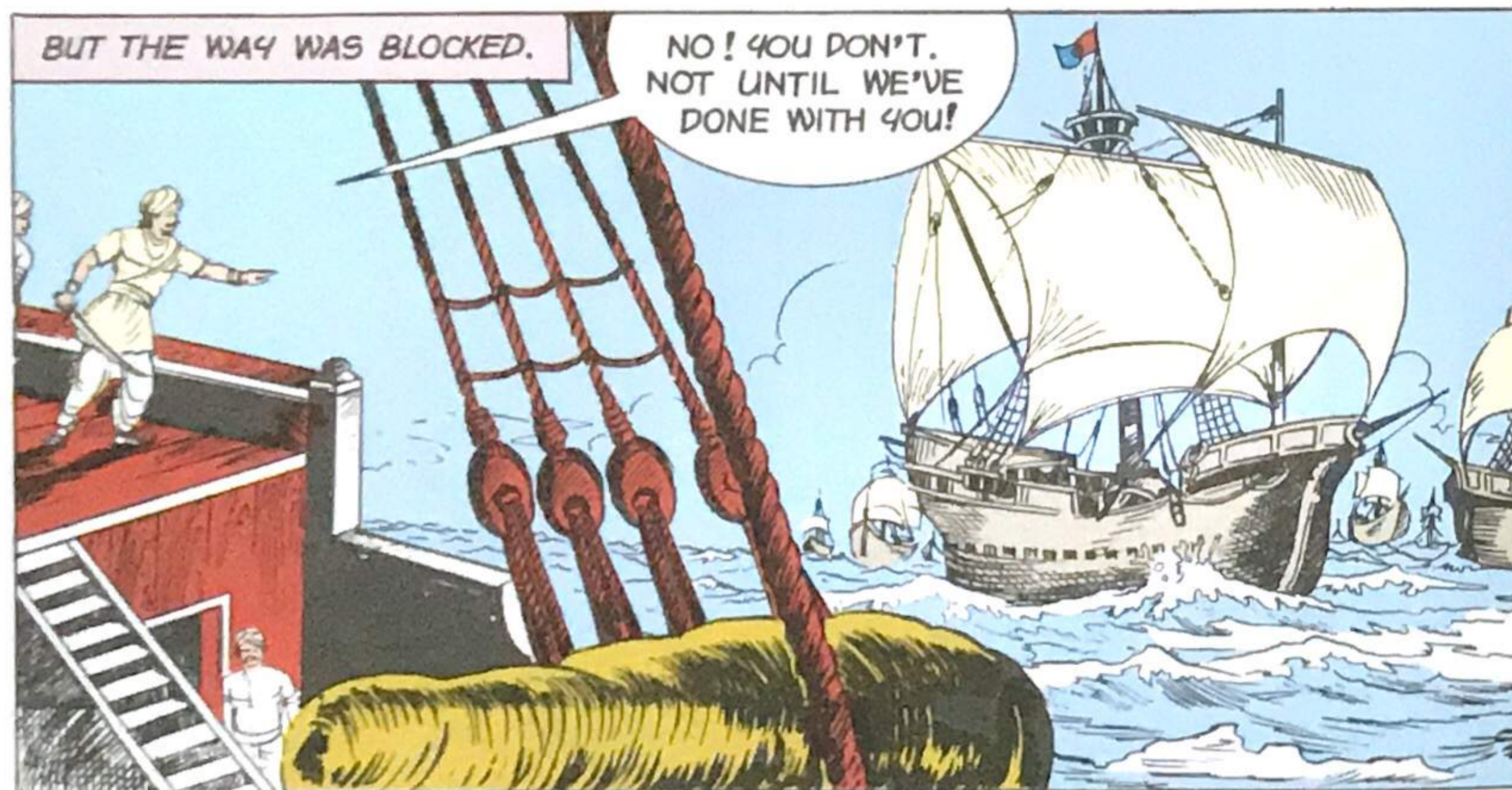
THE LEADER OF ABBAKKA'S FLEET TOOK A QUICK DECISION.

LET THE OTHER SHIPS FLEE TO ULLAL. I WILL HOLD THE ENEMIES IN CHECK. ISSUE THE ORDERS.





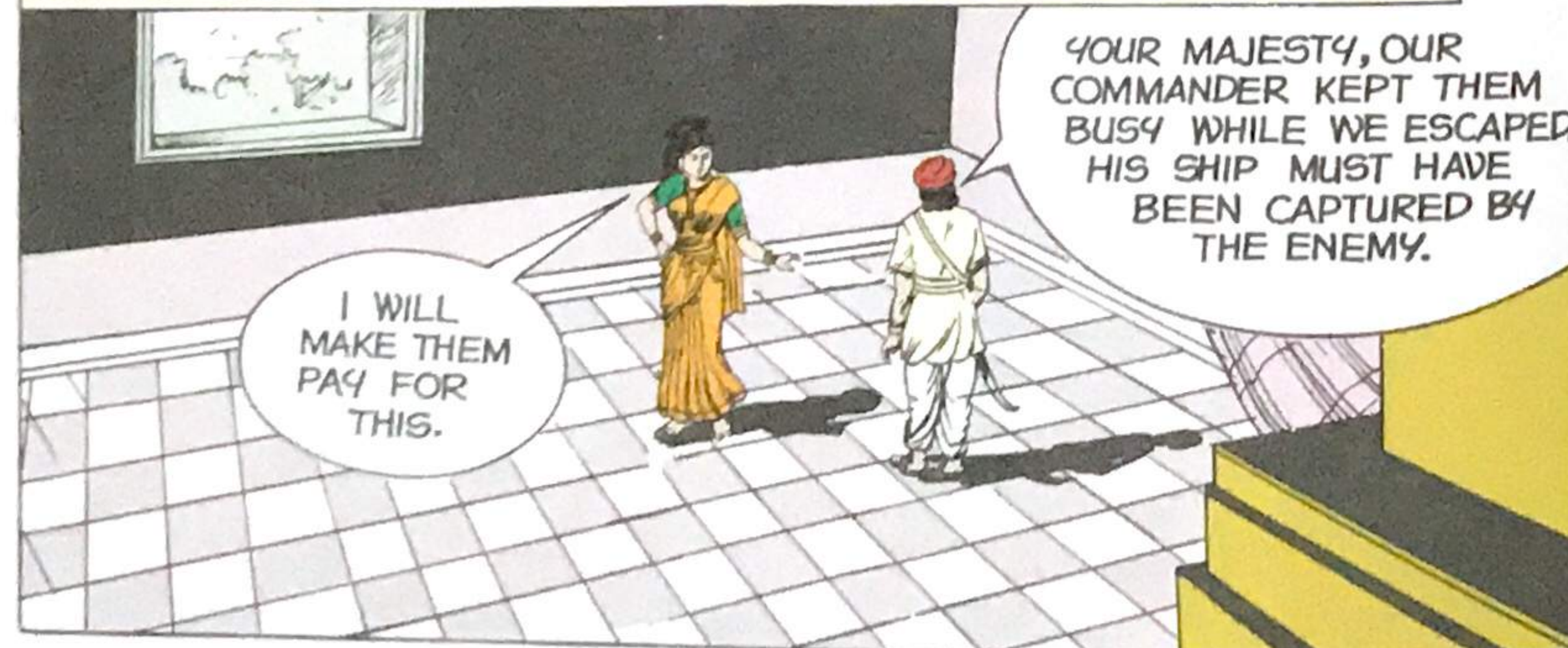
THOSE SHIPS ARE ESCAPING. INTERCEPT THEM!



BUT THE WAY WAS BLOCKED.

NO! YOU DON'T. NOT UNTIL WE'VE DONE WITH YOU!

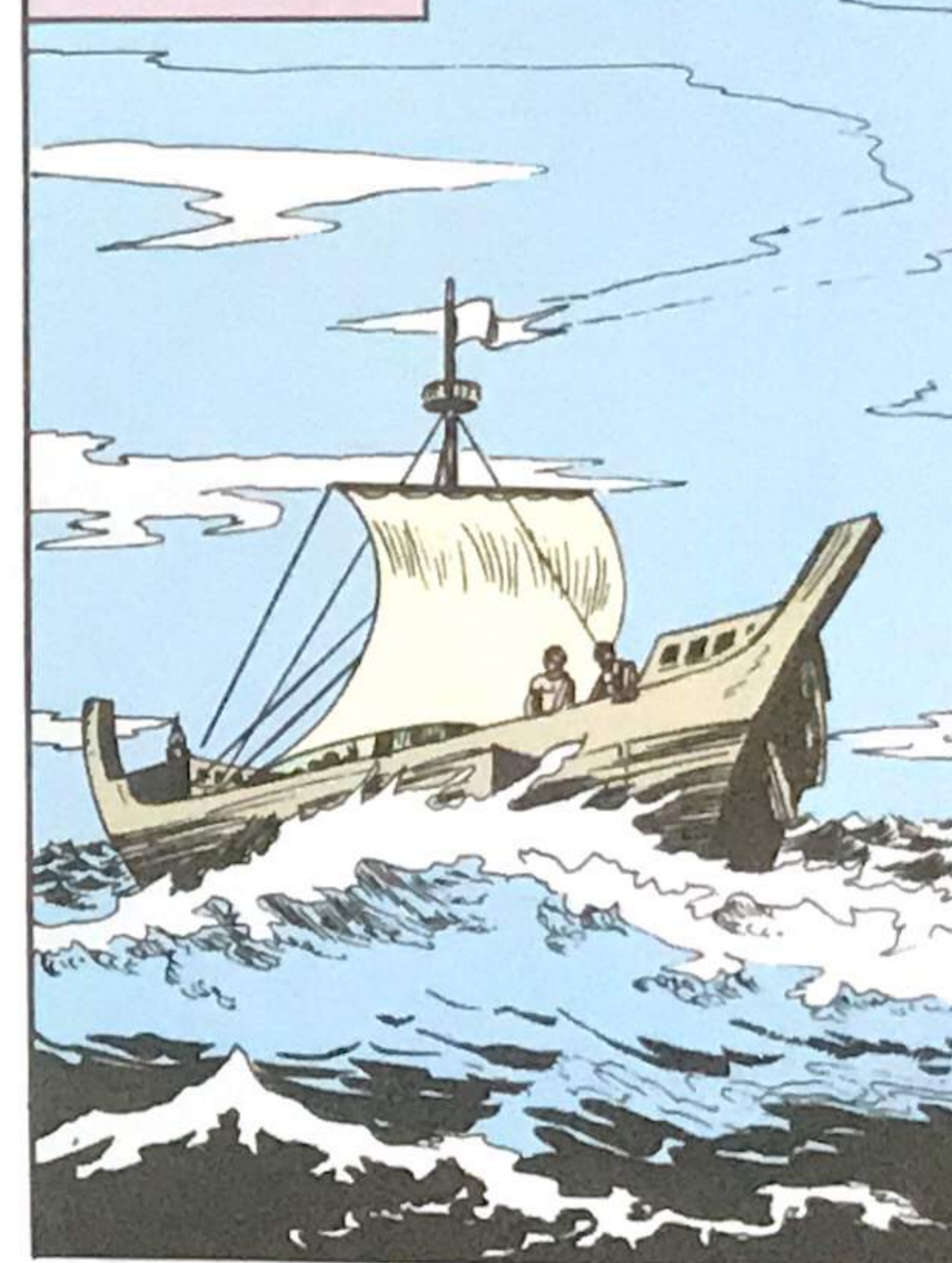
ALL THE SHIPS EXCEPTING THE COMMANDER'S REACHED ULLAL.



I WILL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS.

YOUR MAJESTY, OUR COMMANDER KEPT THEM BUSY WHILE WE ESCAPED. HIS SHIP MUST HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY.

A SPECIAL ENVOY LEFT ULLAL FOR MANGALORE.



WHEN HE REACHED THE MANGALORE FORT —



I COME WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN OF ULLAL. TAKE ME TO YOUR COMMANDER.

HE WAS LED TO RIBERO, THE PORTUGUESE COMMANDER.

OUR QUEEN VIEWS THE ATTACK MADE ON OUR SHIPS AS AN ACT OF PIRACY. SHE DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF OUR CAPTURED SHIP...

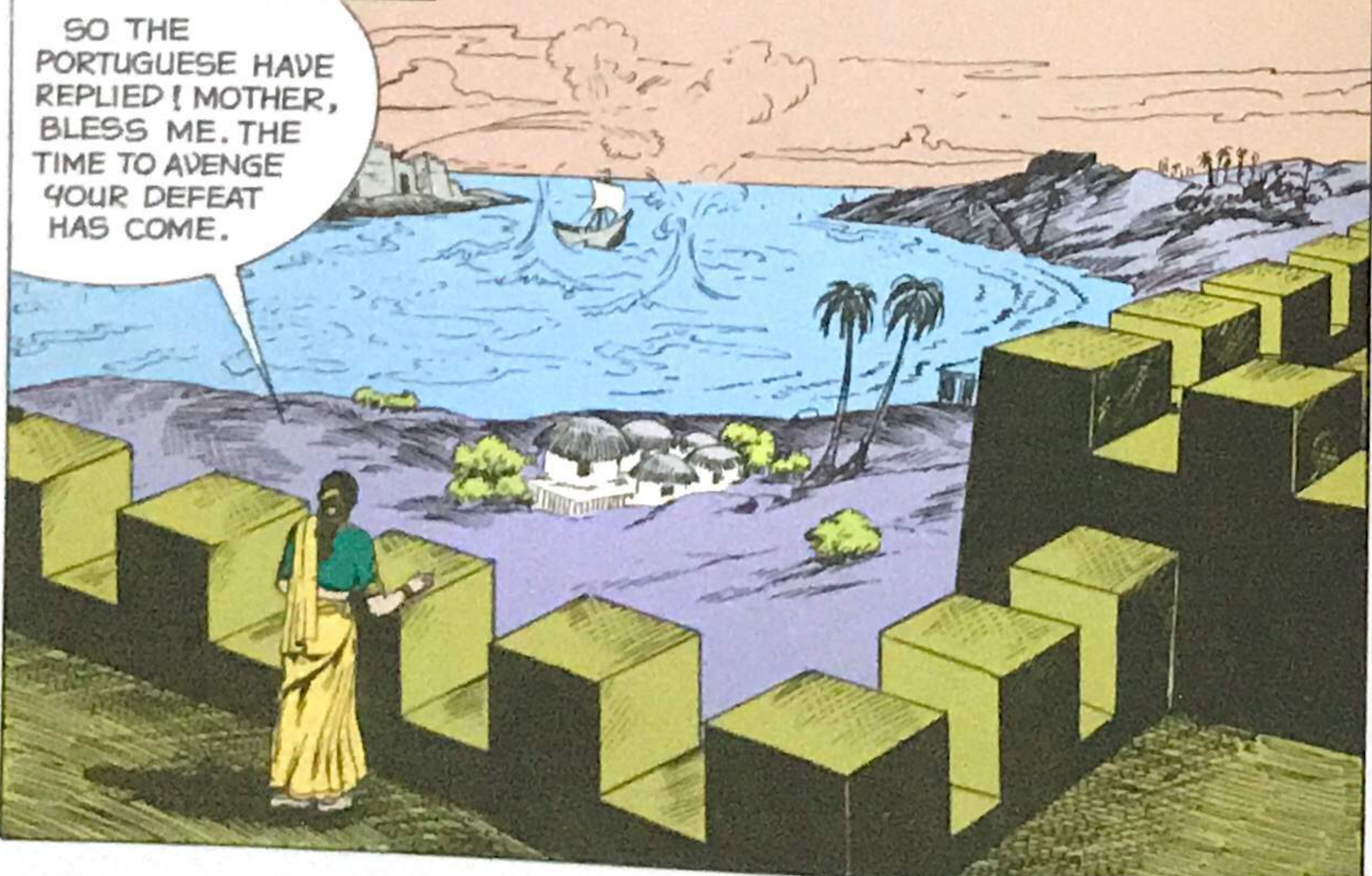


... AND ONE THOUSAND GOLD COINS AS COMPENSATION FOR THE SOLDIERS KILLED AT SEA.





ABBAKKA STOOD WATCHING AS THE CANNONS BOOMED FROM THE FORT ACROSS THE RIVER.



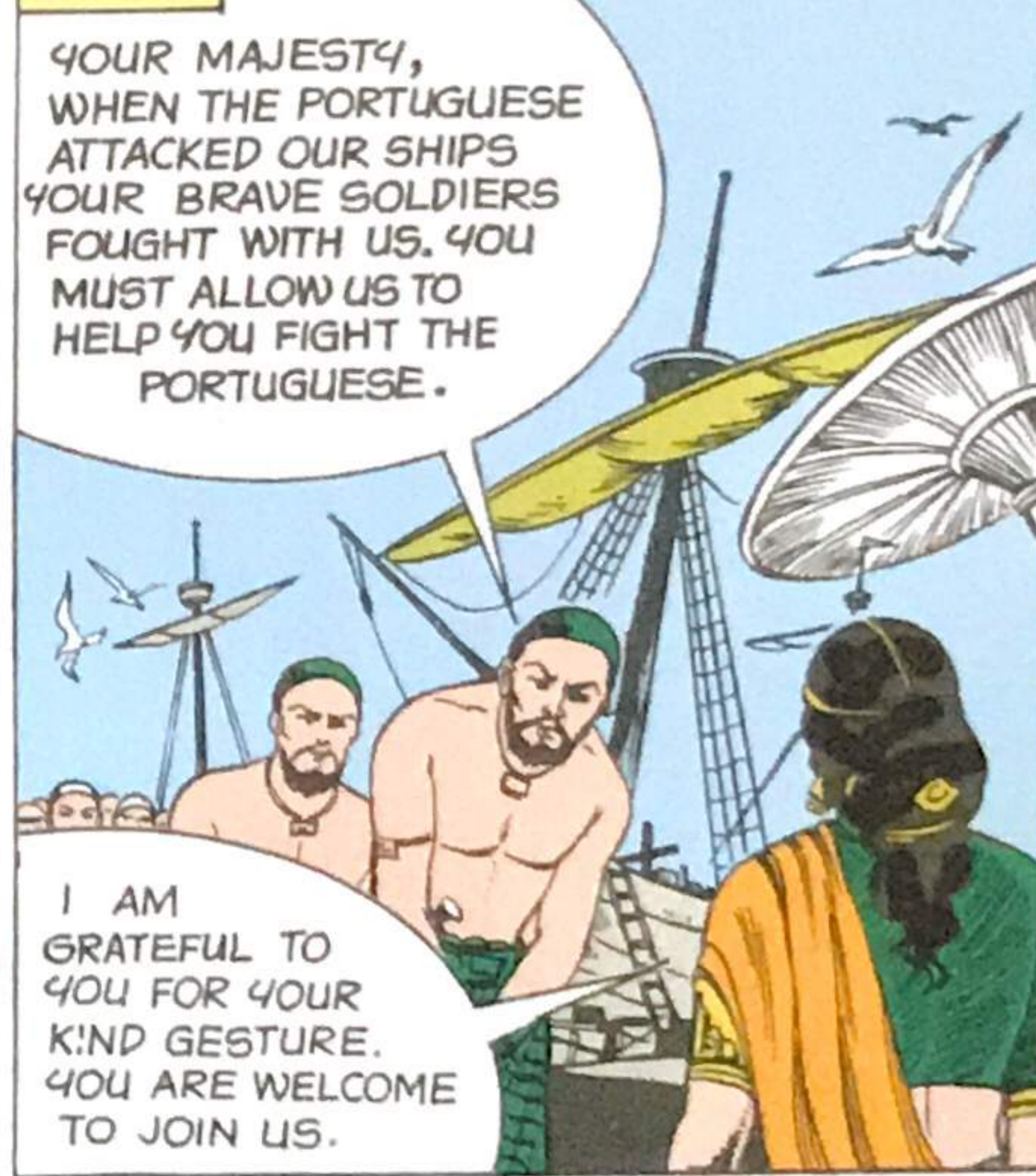
AS THE QUEEN MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MILITARY EXPEDITION AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE...



...THE MOPLAH SAILORS WHO HAD NOT YET LEFT ULLAL FOR KOZHIKODE, APPROACHED HER

YOUR MAJESTY, WHEN THE PORTUGUESE ATTACKED OUR SHIPS YOUR BRAVE SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH US. YOU MUST ALLOW US TO HELP YOU FIGHT THE PORTUGUESE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR KIND GESTURE. YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.



THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL AND THE MOPLAHS SET SAIL FOR MANGALORE.



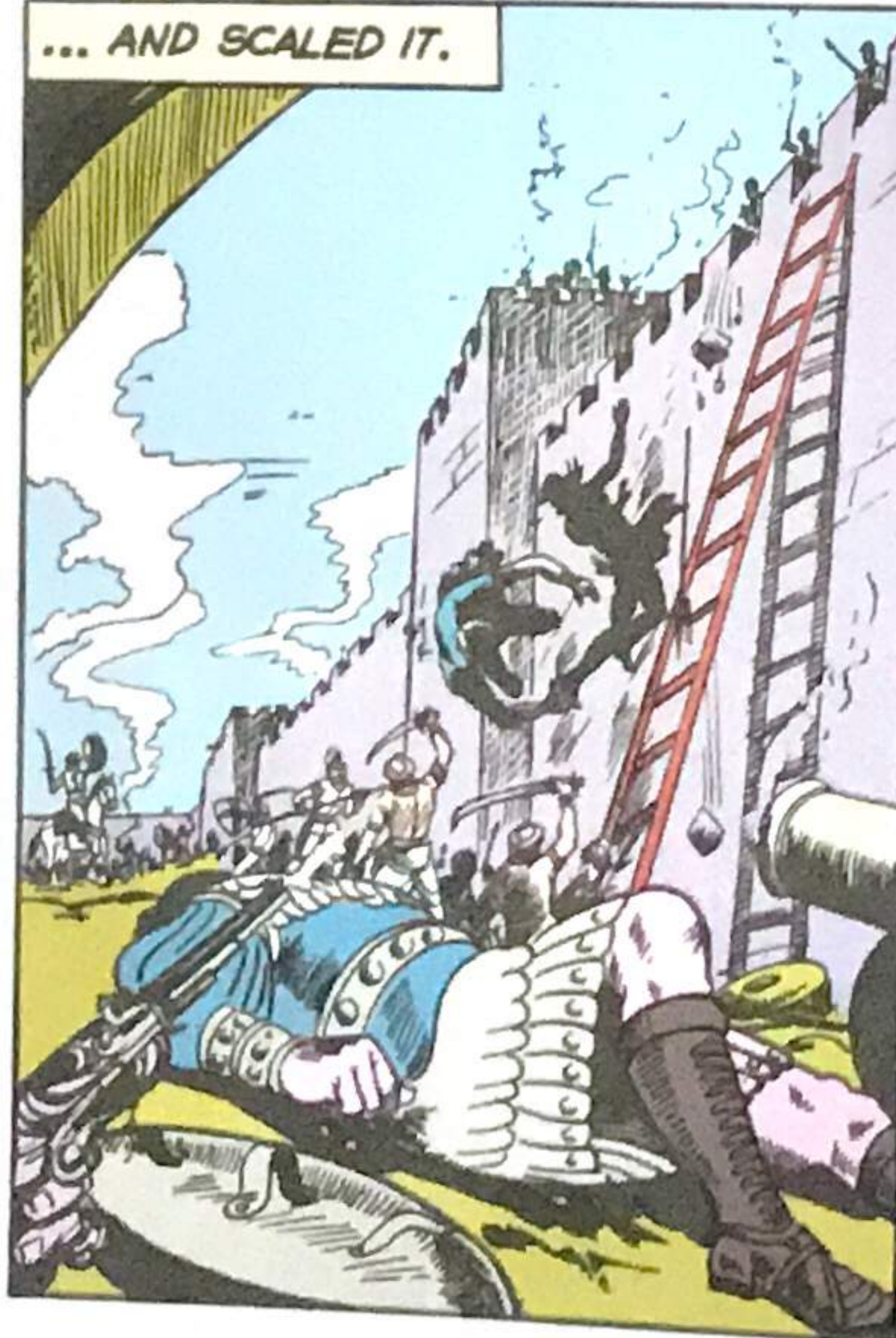
THE PORTUGUESE SPOTTED THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL AS THEY ADVANCED ALONG THE SHORES OF MANGALORE.



DEFYING THE INCESSANT FIRE OF THE PORTUGUESE GUNS AND CANNONS, THE FEARLESS SOLDIERS OF ULLAL RODE TOWARDS THE FORT...



... AND SCALED IT.



THE GATES OF THE FORT WERE FORCED OPEN FROM WITHIN, AND ABBAKKA'S SOLDIERS STORMED IN.



AFTER A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO STOP THEM, THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS SURRENDERED.



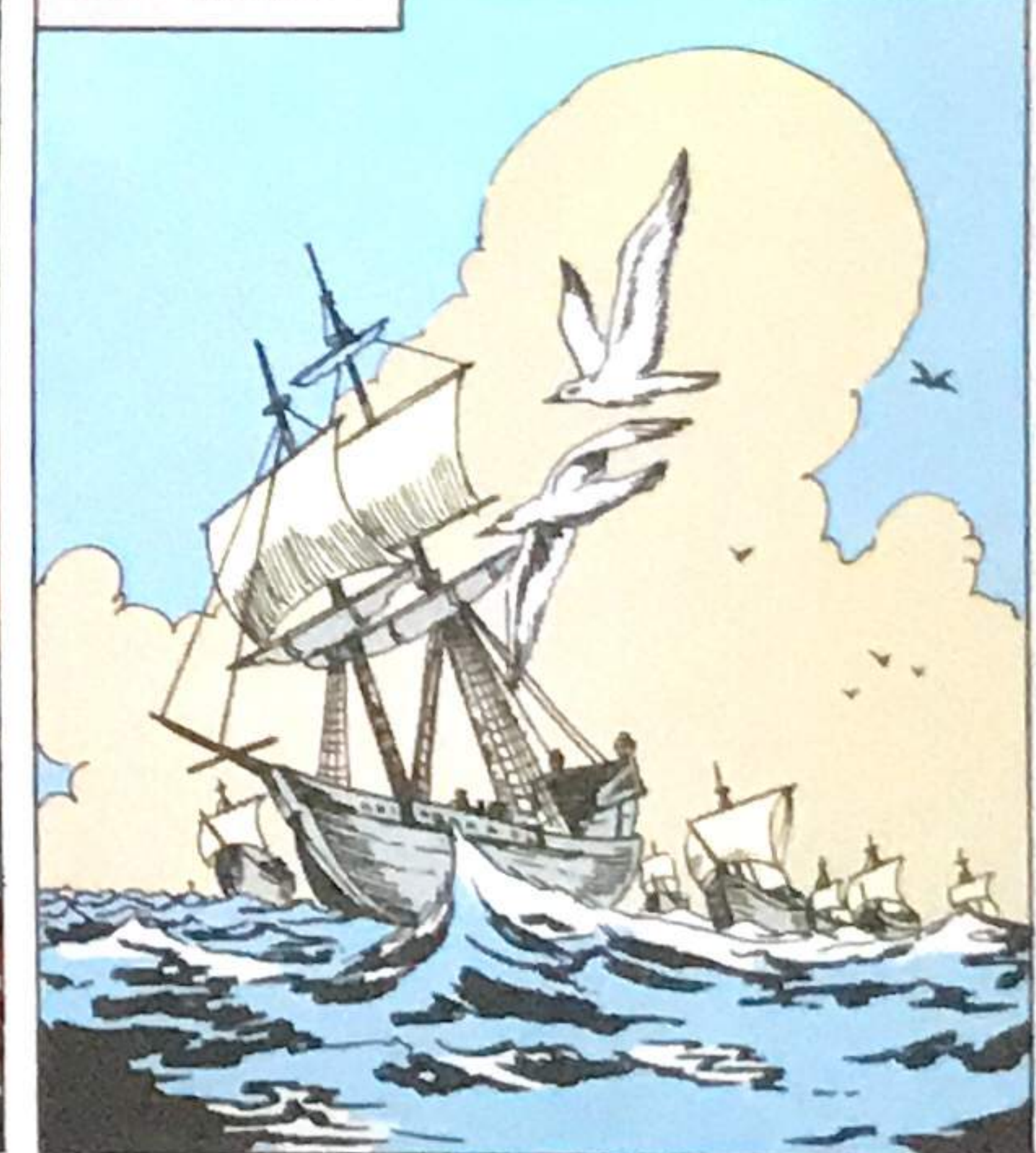
THE ULLAL ARMY TOOK THE GOLD STORED IN THE FORT AS COMPENSATION FOR THE SOLDIERS KILLED BY THE PORTUGUESE AT SEA.



RIBERO ESCAPED WITH HIS LIFE.



ABBAKKA'S SOLDIERS RETURNED TO ULLAL, CARRYING A GREAT DEAL OF BOOTY LOADED ON THE FOUR PORTUGUESE SHIPS CAPTURED BY THEM.



WHEN RIBERO BROUGHT THE NEWS OF THE FALL OF FORT MANGALORE, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNOR OF GOA REACTED SHARPLY.

WHAT! A MERE WOMAN DEFEATING THE MIGHTY PORTUGUESE! YOU HAVE MADE US THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE LOCAL RULERS.



ENCOURAGED BY THE SUCCESS OF ABBAKKA, THE OTHER RULERS TOO MIGHT TRY TO DEFY US. ABBAKKA MUST BE CRUSHED.



A PORTUGUESE FORCE LED BY COUTINHO RUSHED FROM GOA TO ULLAL AND LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT.



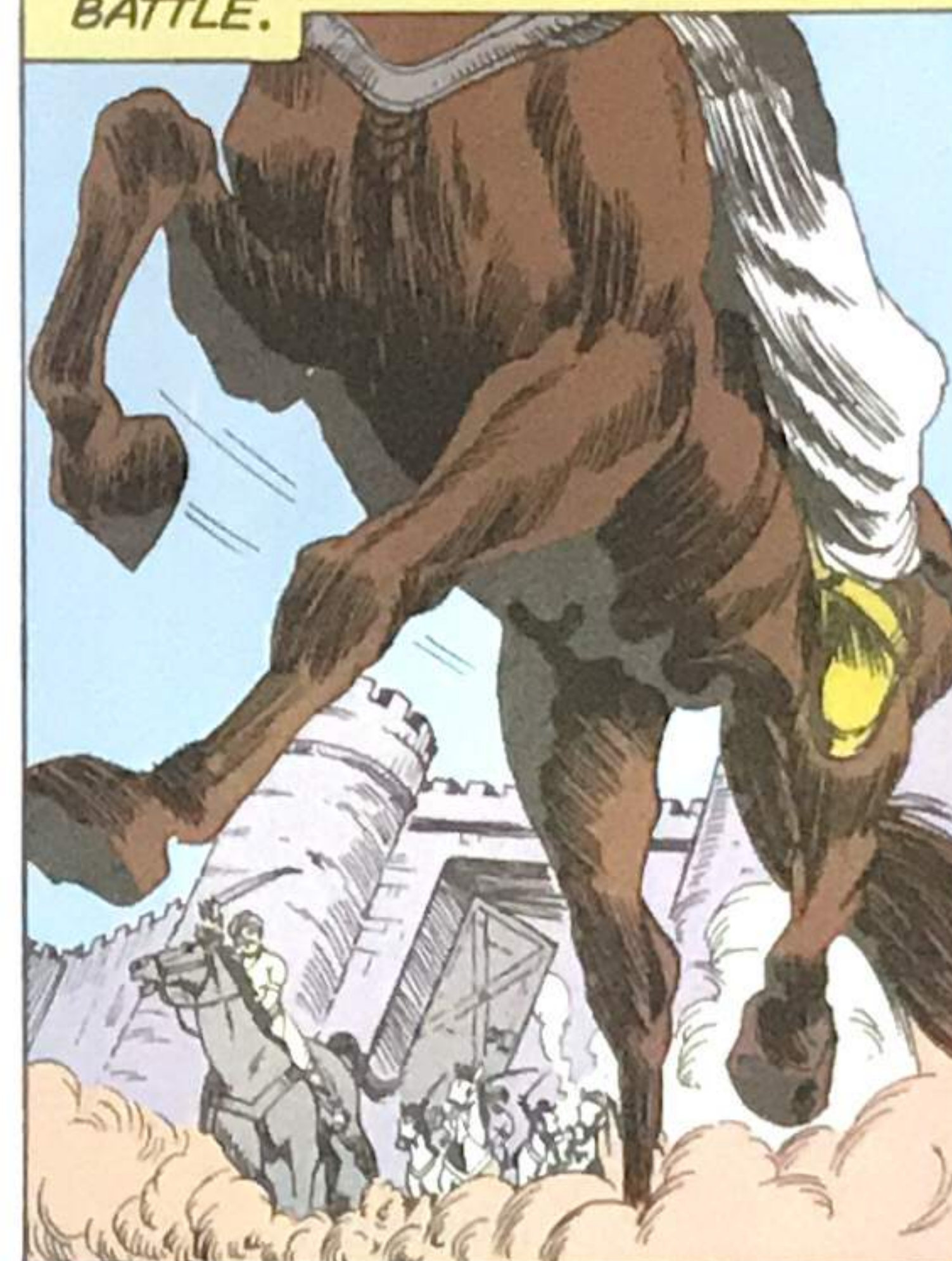
THE DAUNTLESS ABBAKKA ADDRESSED HER MEN.

MY BRAVE SOLDIERS, THIS SHALL BE THE DECISIVE WAR, LET US FIGHT WITH ALL OUR MIGHT AND DEFEAT THE PORTUGUESE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

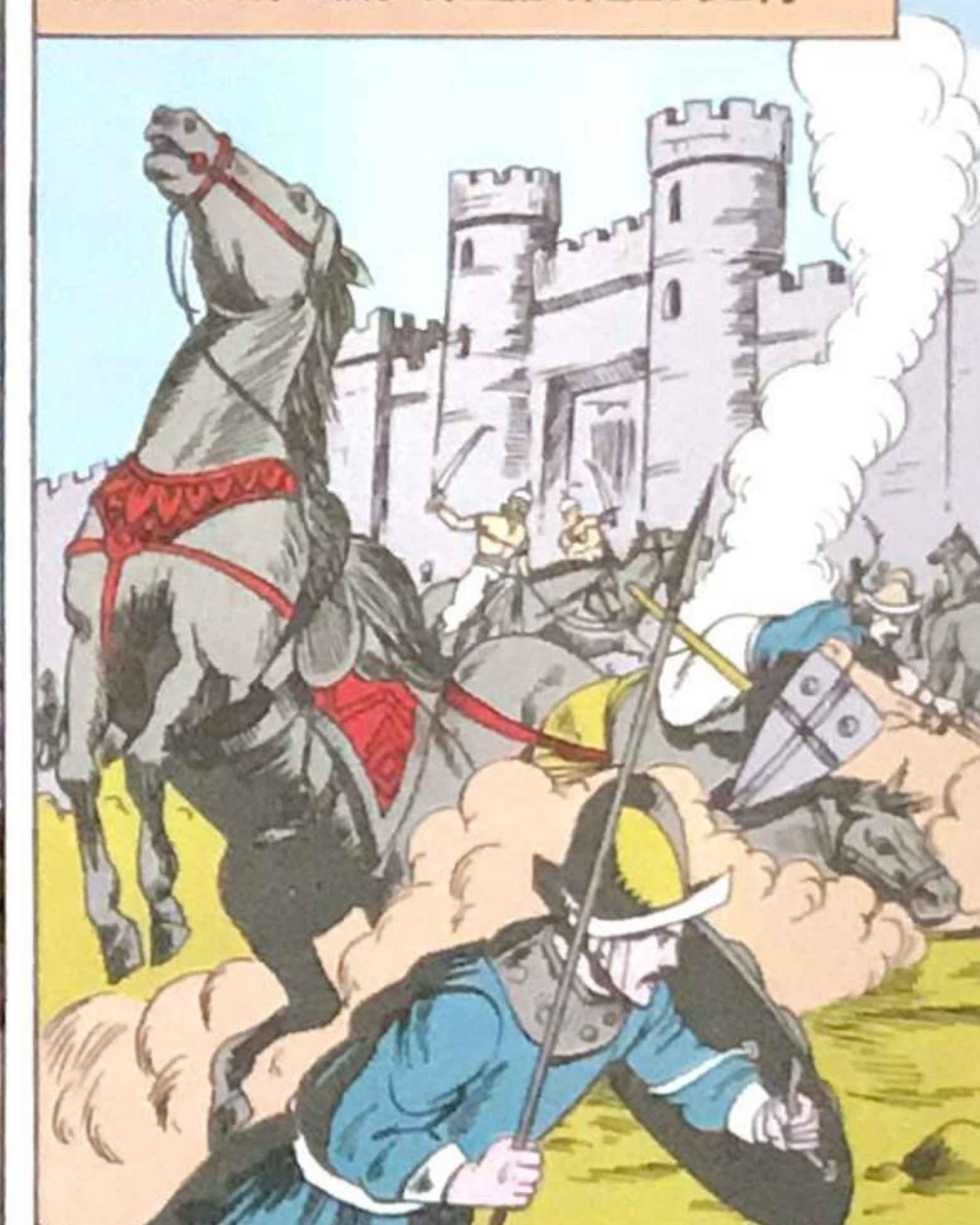
VICTORY TO RANI ABBAKKA!



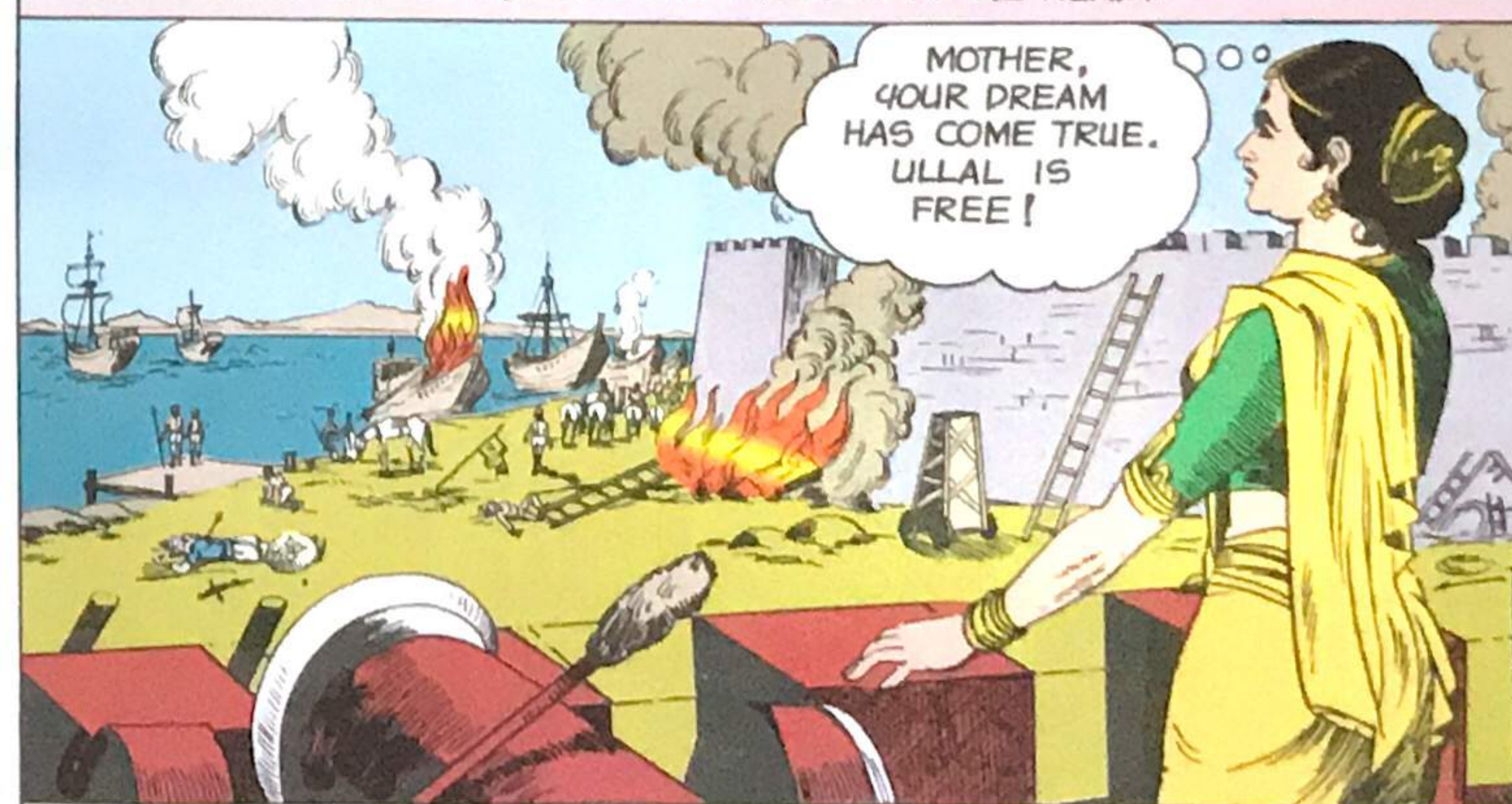
ABBAKKA THREW OPEN THE GATES OF THE FORT AND LED HER MEN TO BATTLE.



URGED ON BY THEIR QUEEN, THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL FOUGHT FIERCELY AND RELENTLESSLY.



FOUR DAYS OF SUCH FIGHTING WERE ENOUGH FOR THE PORTUGUESE. THEY BEAT A HASTY RETREAT, NEVER TO TROUBLE ULLAL AGAIN.



LATER ABBAKKA HELPED VENKATAPPA NAYAK, THE KING OF KELADI, TO TAKE THE FORT OF MANGALORE. THE PORTUGUESE WERE COMPLETELY DRIVEN OUT OF MANGALORE MUCH LATER BY SHIVAPPA NAYAK, THE GREATEST OF THE KINGS WHO RULED KELADI.